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Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Which of the Interior Department recommendations for long-term foreign workers in the CNMI do you support?

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Fidel Castro tells a journalist that Cuba's communist economic model doesn't work.

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No OAG personnel in polling places

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

No personnel of the Office of the Attorney General will be in polling places as observers during the November delegate elections, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero yesterday.

Guerrero, who was at the House of Representatives session yesterday afternoon, said this was a decision made by election commissioners on Tuesday.

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Steele 'out of touch with NMI realities'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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Reporter

The federal election in the CNMI is heating up, as Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's campaign slammed yesterday Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele's statement that there is no need for more economic stimulus.

Steele, the first RNC chair to set foot on Saipan, publicly endorsed Wednesday night the candidacy of former governor Juan N. Babauta of the CNMI Republican Party as CNMI non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Both Babauta and Sablan are among the

See STEELE on Page 4

From left, delegate candidate Juan N. Babauta, his wife Charlene, and Republican National Committee chair Michael Steele watch the cultural dance performances at Babauta's post-birthday fundraiser at the Garapan Central Park Wednesday night.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CLARISSA V. DAVID
NMI Crime Stoppers board member Mark Birmingham holds the 2010 Best Television Public Service Announcement award from Crime Stoppers International. From left, NMI Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong, Birmingham, and NMI Crime Stoppers president and Western Pacific director for Crime Stoppers International Jim Arenovski.

NMI Crime Stoppers wins int'l media award

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

For the first time, the NMI Crime Stoppers program won the 2010 Best Television Public Service Announcement award for communities less than 75,000 from Crime Stoppers International.

Media award winners were announced at the Crime Stoppers International 2010 Annual Conference held Aug. 23-25 in Halifax, Nova Scotia in Canada.

Crime Stoppers International Western Pacific director Jim Arenovski presented the media award to the NMI Crime Stoppers program yesterday during the group's monthly board meeting at the Coco Restaurant in Garapan.

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Local

House passes exit poll, election bills

The House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon two bills related to the November 2010 elections: one that seeks to prevent fraud and abuse during early voting, and the other, mandating the conduct of an exit poll on a federal recommendation to improve the immigration status of foreign workers in the CNMI.

House Bill 17-104, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 1, which seeks to prevent abuse during early voting, now goes to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for action.

Rep. Eli Cabrera's (R-Saipan) bill passed the House on an 18-0 vote.

This measure addresses Fitial's concerns on early voting when he vetoed an election reform bill that the Legislature overrode to make CNMI election laws conform with federal statutes ahead of the Nov. 2 elections.

Early voting, or voting 10 days prior to Election Day, is now allowed as a result of the Legislature's override of Fitial's veto on an election reform law.

HB 17-104, which is an amendment to that election law, also allows voting in the Northern Islands to begin 46 days preceding Election Day.

This bill originally included an exit poll provision but the Senate deleted it Friday.

Cabrera introduced a standalone exit poll bill, HB 17-109, saying the local government and Congress need to directly hear from voters about their stance on the U.S. Department of the Interior's recommendation to allow improved immigration status for alien workers who have been in the CNMI legally for at least five years.

The recommendations include giving them U.S. citizenship, granting them permanent residency status leading to citizenship, or granting them a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

HB 17-109 passed yesterday afternoon on a 13-4 vote with one abstention.

House minority leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), who voted against the bill, said the Senate already rejected the exit poll only on Friday.

"We are a bicameral legislature… We can't pass legislation with the House acting alone," he said. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

Rota High to finalize student rep nominee to BOE today

Rota High School principal Sharlene Manglona is expected to submit her final selection for the school's students representative to the Board of Education today.

Saipan Tribune learned that four Rota students have expressed interest in the position, but the decision will also be based on teachers' recommendations.

"We have four students who are interested but, seeing as this is a very high position that requires off-island travels, we want to have a strong student who can handle that extra pressure," Manglona said.

On Tuesday, the principal met with senior students to discuss the matter.

This will be the second time Rota High School will have a student representing public school students on the board. Aubrey Hocog was the last one from Rota, seven years ago.

"This is a big honor for our school and we will go ahead and make our recommendation. I gave our teachers until Friday [today] to come up with the selection," she said.

Once a final recommendation is submitted to Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, the board will make its recommendation to the governor for a final decision.

Saipan Southern High School's Francine Babauta held the post last school year.

The student representative, a non-voting position, has a one-year term. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

US Labor secretary seeks court's help in probe on four companies

U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis asked the federal court yesterday to compel four CNMI companies to cooperate in an investigation into their business operations.

Solis, through attorney Cheryl L. Adams, filed the petition against APC Co. Ltd., CM Investment Inc., L&R Investment Inc., and Angando Inc.

Solis asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to order these companies to explain why they should not appear before the Labor Wage and Hour Division and produce the records being subpoenaed.

Adams said Solis has attempted to obtain the documents without resorting to court intervention, but these companies have failed to produce the documents and have given no credible explanations for their failure.

Adams said Dan Wang, an investigator of the Saipan NMI District Office, Labor Wage and Hour Division, was investigating these businesses to ascertain any violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Adams said that, on June 14, 2010, the Wage and Hour Regional administrator issued subpoenas directing the respondents to appear and produce records and documents on July 6, 2010. She said the respondents failed to appear at the Wage and Hour district office on Saipan and produce the documents.

The deadline was extended to July 21, 2010, to no avail.

Instead, Adams said, Ramon K. Quichocho, counsel for the respondents, submitted a notice and motion to quash or limit the subpoenas to the Saipan Field Office of the Wage and Hour Division. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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House majority to reject Senate-amended budget bill on Monday

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Barely three weeks before the start of fiscal year 2011, lawmakers have yet to pass a budget bill and no action is expected on the $132 million spending plan until Monday.

The House of Representatives held a session yesterday afternoon but its agenda did not include the budget since the Senate transmitted the latest version to the House only at 11:32am yesterday.

House floor leader George Camacho (Ind-Saipan) said the House clerk's office needs time to put the budget bill on the agenda, fulfill the 24-hour advance notice requirement, and give members more time to review the Senate's amendments to the measure.

Acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) said the budget bill will definitely be on the agenda on Monday.

Rep. Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, said the majority's sentiment is to reject the Senate's version on Monday and call for a conference committee with the Senate.

"I'm just hoping that when we go into a conference committee, members from the House and Senate will show up, unlike when we were working on the austerity bill when they scheduled their vacations so actions on that bill were delayed," Basa told *Saipan Tribune*.

He said next week is "crunch time" to pass a budget that is acceptable to both the House and Senate.

Basa said if a conference committee is called early next week, he would want a report in five days. The House and Senate will then have to act on it, and if the bill passes both chambers, it will go to the governor for action.

"It will be give-and-take. I just hope that the House and Senate will set aside political differences and pass the budget," he added.

The government will shut down and no lawmaker will get a paycheck if no budget is passed before the start of fiscal year 2011 on Oct. 1.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said "time is of the essence in light of the fact that there is an impending government shutdown in the event that time runs out between now and October 1st."

"Nonetheless, we hope that lawmakers will act swiftly to transmit a balanced budget to the governor. Keep in mind that the governor should be afforded due opportunity to review the budget once it hurdles the legislative process," Demapan said.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) said the Senate made sure the changes they made to the budget Friday night were incorporated in the bill, and that the numbers still add up.

Basa said the majority has concerns with the Senate's proposal of an eight-hour work cut per pay period instead of the 16 hours the House and the Fitial administration want. He said the majority is also appalled by the budget increases for Rota and Tinian.

The Senate's version of the budget bill also put an $86,000-cap on the annual discretionary fund of each of the 29 lawmakers, and gives more funding to the Northern Marianas College, the Public School System, and the Judiciary.

'Felons, deceased will be stricken from voters' list'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Only two factors could change the total number of registered voters in the CNMI—deceased persons and convicted felons—whose names will be stricken from the voters' list, according to Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero.

For deceased voters, the Department of Public Health has to certify with the commission the identities of people who recently died.

Both federal and local courts will also provide the commission with dockets listing convicted persons who will be barred from participating in the November polls.

The executive director said no timeline is set for these two requirements, so long as the commission receives the certification and docket before Election Day.

"We receive certifications and dockets periodically…and as soon as we receive them we update our voters' record," he said.

Saipan Tribune learned that once the commission receives the list from the courts, they will write to the person concerned, informing about his or her removal from the voters' list.

The registration of voters ended on Sept. 3 with a total of 16,601 individuals signing up to participate in the Nov. 2 election for the U.S. delegate post. Absentee voters are included in this count, Guerrero said.

"Absentee voters must be registered voters and have to make an absentee ballot request to the commission in order to be counted. There's no way an absentee voter can receive a ballot without the necessary request," he said.

The commission has until Oct. 8 to receive absentee ballot requests—either through mail, fax, and walk-in. The agency will start sending absentee ballots on Sept. 15.

"As long as it is postmarked on or before Oct. 8, we will accept it," he said, adding that the commission will publish updates all the way to the Election Day.

Guerrero said absentee ballots cannot be used as a form to register for the election.

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OPA remands GPPC request to Procurement

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The Office of Public Auditor has remanded to the Procurement and Supply director GPPC's request for reconsideration in OPA's decision on the Puerto Rico dump final closure project of the Department of Public Works.

In its request, GPPC maintained that procurement regulations do not require cancellation of the solicitation for the project if it could be revised to comply with law or regulation.

GPPC also argued that it stands by its initial bid and that the contract should be awarded to them since they are the second lowest bidder.

In its five-page decision issued Wednesday, OPA agreed with GPPC's first argument, which brought about the reconsideration of its earlier decision to cancel the Notice of Proposed Award and the invitation for bid.

ITSI, the winning bidder, filed the appeal on June 4 to protest the Notice of Intent to Award it received from the Capital Improvement Projects Office for the dump closure.

The ITSI appeal prompted OPA to issue its Aug. 12 decision to cancel both the Notice of Proposed Award and DPW 09-IFB-19.

"OPA is canceling only the Notice of Proposed Award, which is contrary to an express contract provision as well as to the general principles of procurement law. OPA is not canceling the solicitation," the decision stated.

But OPA said it cannot award GPPC the contract as "it cannot substitute its judgment for the Contracting Officer."

OPA also "cannot determine whether GPPC is a responsible bidder, whether its bid price was reasonable, or whether awarding the contract to GPPC is in the best interests of the Commonwealth."

"Thus, OPA remands this solicitation to the Director of Procurement and Supply for whatever action he deems appropriate," the decision concluded.

The final closure of the Puerto Rico dump is part of a consent order between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the CNMI government.

CNMI dancers add flavor to Japan festival

Representatives from the Northern Mariana Islands joined about 30,000 performers at the annual Domannaka Matsuri dance festival in Nagoya, Japan last month, exposing 2-million festival-goers to a taste of island culture.

Eight dancers of the NMI Domannaka team participated in the festival, held from Aug. 27 to 29, 2010. The event was held on 20 stages throughout Nagoya and featured 221 dance troupes from Japan, Korea, China and the Northern Marianas.

"Wherever the Northern Marianas was scheduled to dance, they were always a favorite among the performers," said director Gordon I. Marciano of team sponsor Pacific Development Inc. "The crowd was fascinated by their unique style of dancewear and performance, and they were warmly greeted by spectators and performers, alike."

Marciano also represented the Northern Marianas on the judges' panel for the Top 10 national performers at the festival.

The NMI performers were also sponsored by the Marianas Visitors Authority and Delta Air Lines.

The Domatsuri event produced 50,000 brochures highlighting the different dance groups and the event was watched by millions on television.

The Domannaka festival was first introduced to the MVA eight years ago by PDI and Chamolinian Cultural Village, Inc. as a means to promote the islands by building relationships and fostering goodwill with dancers and culturally interested audiences in Japan.

Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores also made an appearance at the festival. Members of the NMI Domannaka Team were selected from among the groups that supported the Domatsuri group from Nagoya that visited Saipan for the Liberation Day celebration in July. Groups represented included Island Warriors, Tipi-yeew, Welipal, Refaluwasch Warriors and SkiMar Ent. ***(MVA)***

MVA

Northern Marianas Domonnaka dance team with Takeuchi Eriko, standing second from left, and performers of her domatsuri dance team. The two teams were among 221 others who gathered in Nagoya, Japan on August 27-29, 2010, for a dance festival attended by two million people.

NMI

From Page 1

"[There were] hundreds and hundreds of entries and we are very fortunate to announce that the NMI Crime Stoppers is the recipient of the [award]," Arenovski said as he presented the award to board member Mark Birmingham and Crime Stoppers coordinator Jason Tarkong.

Arenovski told *Saipan Tribune* this is also the first time that a western Pacific program won the international award.

"We're very excited... It really goes to the talents of public and private schools, we're getting kids more involved in video production," said the local chapter president.

The award-winning commercial was one of the winners of the Crime Stoppers create-a-commercial contest in June.

Produced by Gester Garcia and Oliver Patris, the black and white video that demonstrates a young man witnessing an armed robbery earned the nods of NMI Crime Stoppers board members who served as judges for the contest.

Arenovski said the commercial was of such high quality that it was included in the Crime Stoppers international competition.

He said they will present Garcia and Patris with a plaque of recognition for their efforts in creating the winning commercial.

As the island is experiencing difficult times, Arenovski said they want to further promote the program to deter crimes in the community.

"We want the community to know that we're here, the Crime Stoppers is here to get that information and get it to the proper law enforcement so they can investigate and hopefully make an arrest," he said.

Arenovski also thanked the contest's sponsors: Docomo Pacific, MegaZone, Hollywood Theaters, Mobil, and Saipan World Resort.

Birmingham, who is the system manager for MCV, said the award would result in "more visibility" for the program and the island.

"It's really nice that Saipan can win an international award. It puts Saipan on the map. It puts the Crime Stoppers on the map, too," he said.

With the success of the contest, Birmingham said they expect more and better videos for next year's create-a-commercial contest.

Tarkong, who attended the conference with other board members, said he was surprised when the NMI Crime Stoppers was called to receive the award.

"To win the award was just totally phenomenal," he said.

Tarkong said credit should go to the officers and board members, especially Christina Smith who served a critical role in pushing for the creative commercial contest.

According to Tarkong, the award will help motivate people to realize that Crime Stoppers does work.

"It really works based on your anonymity. A lot of people out there with information may feel uncomfortable with somebody in a uniform or giving it to the police. We'll protect your anonymity," he said.

NO OAG

From Page 1

"Contrary to public opinion, the Office of the Attorney General does not have control over the conduct of any election, only the Commission. The only time OAG comes in is when there are election complaints," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

If election complaints arise in this year's polls, Guerrero said federal authorities may have to come in instead of the OAG, especially because "this is a federal election."

Guerrero said assistant attorneys general and the attorney general, during previous elections, were at polling places only as observers.

He said this is also true for Office of the Public Auditor personnel who are also observers in elections and do not have control over the conduct of election, he said.

The Election Commission's decision comes days after Public Auditor Michael Pai recommended to Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham and OAG personnel to cease any campaign activities in the name of OAG.

OPA is now investigating the substance of the complaints lodged against Buckingham and the OAG for hosting a campaign gathering for delegate candidate Joseph N. Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party on Aug. 28 at Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's private residence in Gualo Rai.

OPA also offered to provide legal counsel to the Election Commission "to remove any further appearance of impartiality in the upcoming election."

Guerrero said the commission continues to have assistant attorney general Meaghan Hassel-Shearer as counsel.

The governor appointed Hassel-Shearer to direct the OAG's activities related to the November election, with the full authority of the attorney general, after Buckingham recused himself from all involvement and oversight of the November 2010 election.

The campaign committee of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who is seeking re-election, said Buckingham's recusal is "an insufficient and premature response."

STEELE

From Page 1

four delegate candidates. The two other candidates are former lt. governor Jesse Borja of the Democratic Party and former House floor leader Joseph Camacho of the ruling Covenant Party.

Kilili's campaign, in a statement yesterday, said Steele is "dead wrong" that there is no need for more economic stimulus in the CNMI.

It said Steele is trying to replay the same old mainland talking points wherever he goes, "but he is clearly out of touch with realities here in the NMI."

"Steele's remarks while on a touch-and-go mission to Saipan to collect money and support for his run for re-election as GOP chairman reveal a man who doesn't know what it's like to live without 24-hour drinking water. Steele never had to pay a CUC bill with rates 4 times the national average," the Kilili campaign said.

The Kilili campaign cited American Recovery and Reinvestment Act point man Michael Ada's earlier statement that ARRA created 375 jobs in the CNMI.

Steele, in an interview with reporters on Wednesday night, said "another $50 billion stimulus" is not something that is necessary right now.

"We don't need another stimulus. We have been stimulated to the point where nothing's happening and so the reality of it is we've already spent $863 million and we don't see the jobs, we don't see the small business getting the kind of support and incentives that they need to create the jobs that the American people want," he said.

President Obama's "second stimulus" proposes a $100 billion tax credit for businesses and $50 billion on infrastructure spending. These proposals have yet to be approved by what many believe is an increasingly partisan Congress that is expected to heavily tilt Republican in November.

The Kilili campaign said it's true that Republicans here in the CNMI have a long and proud tradition.

"But we don't want our congressional delegate in lock-step with Washington Republicans, who just say 'no' to the kind of economic development funding our Commonwealth needs. We have to re-elect Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan. He's independent enough to make the case for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands no matter who controls Congress," the Kilili campaign said.

Kilili: $1M health reform act funds for the CNMI

» Funding will protect consumers from unreasonable rate hikes

WASHINGTON, D.C.—U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan announced yesterday that $1 million in federal funds are now available to the Northern Mariana Islands to help the Commonwealth government protect consumers from unreasonable increases in their health insurance premiums.

The funding is part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the landmark health care reform bill passed by Congress and signed into law in March. The Commonwealth must apply by Oct. 1 to receive the money.

Sablan

"This $1 million grant is one of the reasons I worked so hard to make sure the people of the Northern Marianas were included in health care reform," said Sablan. "And I will continue to work to make sure that health care reform benefits our Commonwealth."

On July 29th, following advocacy by the delegates to Congress, Health and Human Services Secretary *Kathleen* Sebelius confirmed that the five U.S. territories—the Northern Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands—would benefit from most of the consumer protections established in the new health care law, including the Premium Review grant. The actual announcement of fund availability, however, only occurred this month.

The total funding available to the Northern Marianas is the same as that available to each state: $1 million. No match is required. The money can be used in fiscal 2010 and in fiscal 2011.

"With the local government strapped for resources the Insurance Commissioner is at a disadvantage protecting consumers. These new federal funds will help the Commissioner determine if any premium increases that insurance companies propose are unreasonable, not sufficiently justified by an increase in health care and other costs, or excessive relative to the current rate."

The program is officially known as the Grants to States for Health Insurance Premium Review. It requires recipients "to either develop or enhance their current capacity to review and, to the extent permitted by state law, approve or deny rate increases.

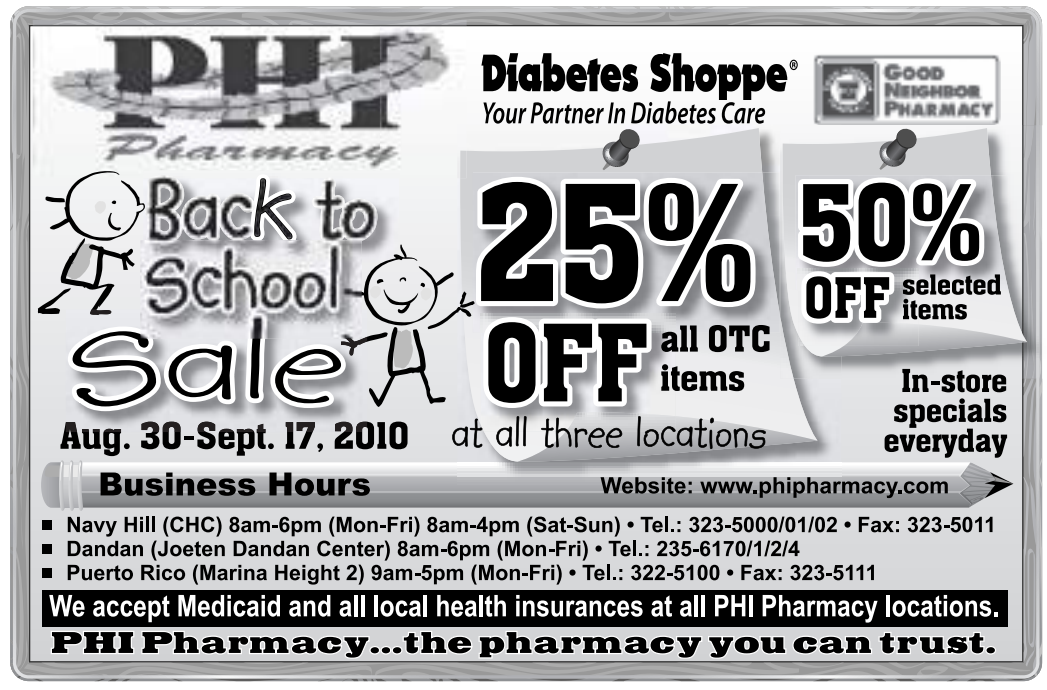
"States that do not currently review rate filing will need to demonstrate in their application how they plan to develop a process to conduct meaningful rate review or otherwise enhance their oversight over insurers' rating practices."

The plan must also include a mechanism for disclosing rates to the public.

In her July letter, Sebelius also reiterated that the Northern Mariana Islands would be eligible for funding to assist in making insurance premiums affordable through an insurance exchange.

"Under section 1323 of the Affordable Care Act," Sebelius wrote, "each territory has the option to receive funds to make coverage affordable through an Exchange starting in 2014."

A total of $75 million has been set aside to subsidize health insurance premiums for residents of the U.S. territories. ***(PR)***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Chamber opposes tax rebate cuts; bill goes back to committee

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce says it is "adamantly opposed" to a proposed cut in tax rebate amounts contained in a revenue-generating bill that the House of Representatives referred back yesterday to the Ways and Means Committee for further review.

Kyle Calabrese, executive director of the business group, said they continue to be dismayed at the lack of financial analysis on the cumulative effect of the proposed rebate cut and increases in license fees, excise taxes, and sin taxes.

Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said the original intent of his bill was only to raise annual license fees, most of which have been the same for decades, and not to also increase sin taxes and cut rebate amounts as the Senate proposed in its substitute version.

"I strongly recommend we should also hear from the business community," Cabrera said during yesterday afternoon's session.

Acting House Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) referred House Bill 17-40, House Draft 2, Senate Substitute 1, Senate Draft 2 to Rep. Ramon Basa's (Cov-Saipan) committee.

Although the latest version of the bill is styled as a reduction of a rebate, it is nothing more than a tax increase, said Calabrese.

"Any reduction of the … tax rebate will harm individuals and families, businesses and the economy, and ultimately, the Commonwealth government itself," Calabrese said in a letter yesterday to House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) who was absent at the session.

The Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI, urges the House not to undertake an overhaul of the CNMI's tax structure without first studying the effects of such measures.

It said the proposed cuts in the rebate amount mean tax increases that range from an 11-percent tax increase for the lowest income bracket to greater than a 40-percent increase for the highest income bracket.

"These tax increases come at a time when the Legislature is seeking to increase the cost of doing business through license fee increases, as well as the cost of retail goods, through excise tax increases," Calabrese said.

He said much greater emphasis on enforcement is needed.

"There are businesses or individuals who do no pay [or underreport] taxes or who do not comply with current licensing laws or labor laws," he said, adding that such businesses hurt law-biding companies and lead to a drop in government revenues through non-compliance with licensing and tax laws.

The Chamber urges the Legislature to make "meaningful, long-term spending cuts."

"The government should enact a sustainable plan to reduce its expenditures to an amount less than or equal to its revenues, rather thank taking stopgap measures to continue employing as many people as possible while reducing hours and wages," the group said.

The Senate cut in half most of the business license fee increases the House is proposing, and added new revenue-generating provisions in its substitute bill passed on Friday on Tinian.

The revenue-generating provisions include cutting tax rebates, raising poker machine annual license fee by $1,000, imposing a license fee for non-bank automated teller machines, increasing so-called "sin" taxes, and creating a new "sweet" tax.

When the bill went back to the House, members agreed to give the committee time to further review the bill and hold public hearings on it.

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MHS to relocate parking space to campus' front

» Trees chopped down to make way for parking project

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Environmentalists and community members are up in arms over last Sunday's chopping down of trees fronting the Marianas High School but school principal Craig Garrison defended the move, saying the trees posed a hazard to power lines in the area. Also, he plans to move the school's parking lot to the front.

Garrison confirmed that more than five fully grown trees were chopped down by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. as part of their power maintenance work. He said the trees were a hazard not only to the lines that connect the power grid to the school but to other facilities in the area.

"CUC linemen were out there last Sunday trimming the trees away from the power lines. I told them it's actually good because it keeps our students safe too. Since I also plan to move our parking space to the front of the school, I think it's also the perfect time for the parking space project," said Garrison.

He said he made the decision to cut the remaining five or six trees for the project.

At present, MHS students park their vehicles in the middle of the campus.

MHS is the oldest high school on island and Garrison said the design of its parking space is already outdated, making it difficult to move cars around.

"Now that we have a building on that side [of the road] I decided that it's the perfect time for me to cut the rest of these trees so we can establish the parking lot project," he said.

Garrison

Based on his plan, the parking space would be removed from the middle of the campus and the space would be planted with "more appropriate" trees. He described the trees that were cut as more appropriate to a forest than a school site.

The idea, according to Garrison, is to build a safer place for students to park, for school buses to easily enter and leave the campus, and a welcome site for students and community members.

Garrison said it takes about eight turns for a parent or the school bus to completely conduct the pickup and drop-off of students at MHS.

He said the school, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, will soon remove the cut trees along the road.

When asked if he consulted the education commissioner about the plan, Garrison said: "I am not required to do so… because the commissioner has given the principal the authority to operate school campuses safely and efficiently. As the school principal, I will do whatever is required for the safety of my students."

The parking space project is just among the many "structural and physical" changes that the new principal wants to establish at MHS.

TO MEET ACCREDITATION STANDARDS

NMC develops reaffirmation action plan

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas College has developed a comprehensive accreditation reaffirmation action plan in preparation for its show-cause report due next month.

The action plan, according to the office of interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, addresses the 10 concerns raised by the Western Association for Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges in its June 30 decision to put NMC on show-cause status.

The plan features 62 action items that specifically address the commission's concerns regarding NMC's noncompliance with standards and eligibility requirements.

One of those concerns was financial planning. NMC's Planning, Program Review Outcomes, and Assessment Committee—or PROAC—is now creating a budget prioritizing process that will link program review with budget allocation.

The college's PROA Strategic Plan 2008-2012 is now also being updated into an operational plan to address the commission's recommendation about strategic planning.

In recent meetings, the Board of Regents revised the college's finance and procurement policies to resolve concerns about NMC's financial integrity. The revisions will ensure more financial accountability at the college.

As for commission concerns about administrative capacity, the college's administrative leaders participated in several professional development workshops sponsored by WASC.

This is in addition to developing a more comprehensive faculty evaluation system to improve its academic responsibility. This task was completed by NMC's academic council.

"In response to recommendations about student records, NMC will develop and implement an Institutional Records Management Plan," NMC's statement said, adding that the Board of Regents also participated in several professional development workshops sponsored by the Pacific Postsecondary Education Council and the Association of Community College Trustees to address concerns on training.

Cabrera described NMC's level of commitment to meeting accreditation requirements as "very strong."

"I'm really proud of everyone at the college who has stepped up and taken a lead in helping to ensure that NMC fully addresses the recommendations made by the accrediting commission. The level of commitment demonstrated by students, staff, and faculty is a strong indication of how much faith and confidence they have in our institution," she added.

NMC has only until Oct. 15 to submit its show-cause report. WASC will make its decision at the January 2011 assembly.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 10, 1999

$60M bond for CIP projects under review

The proposed $60 million bond now moving forward in the Legislature is intended to boost the local economy and lawmakers are hopeful it would be finalized by the end of this year. According to Rep. Karl T. Reyes, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the proposed allocation of the funds should be similar to the spending plan implemented by the Governor's 702 Multi-Agency CIP Task Force. That spending plan required projects to be selected for funding through a prioritizing process where certain criteria would be met for each specific project. Projects were identified by the various departments, agencies, joint legislative delegations, and mayors' offices for the CNMI's three major islands.

Arriola opposes sanction against him

Lawyer Joseph Arriola yesterday opposed the motion filed by Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan and Chief Prosecutor Kevin Lynch who have asked the court to have him sanctioned for "extremely improper conduct." Manibusan and Lynch have sought sanctions on Arriola in connection with his move to summon them to testify on a case which involved a businessman's bid for return of the properties seized from him by the government. Arriola stood pat on his move to subpoena the court's highest ranking judge and the government's chief prosecutor, but maintained such move was not meant to "intimidate nor harass" anyone. "Far be it, a young and new attorney like myself would never think of such act," Arriola said.

Sept. 10, 2001

No money for salary hike? Let CDA do the borrowing

No money to fund the retroactive salary adjustments of government employees? Then let the Commonwealth Development Authority produce the amount-$19 million-either by borrowing it from a lending institution or by issuing general obligation funds on behalf of the CNMI. This was the gist of a bill filed Friday by Rep. Antonio M. Camacho, who said the law providing for the retroactive salary hike, Public Law 7-31, contained no provisions appropriating the money for the salary increase.

CDA may seize CUC assets

The Commonwealth Development Authority may seize the assets of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation if it fails to comply with a court ruling, ordering it to settle $102 million in delinquent loans. CDA counsel F. Matthew Smith said that his client may resort to the regular course of collecting loans if the utility company does not voluntarily pay the relief granted by the CNMI Superior Court. This, even as he stressed that he believes the CUC has the capability to pay its obligations to the government-owned lending agency.

Sept. 10, 2002

Manglona in danger of losing his $2.7M

If Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona remains obstinate and goes through with his threat of a lawsuit over the siting of two CIP projects, the Rota Legislative Delegation may just have to reallocate the money for the projects to the expansion of the Rota International Airport. At the same time, delegation chairman Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig said Manglona should separate the issue of the Cultural Center and the Convention Center from the Department of Public Safety and Judicial Complex projects so as not to confuse people and create more dissension. This developed soon after Manglona said that, if the delegation insists on its choice of location for the projects, then he may be forced to bring the matter to court to compel the delegation to agree with him on the projects' site.

MGM revises stance to oppose hike

A major garment manufacturer on Saipan that had initially submitted conditional support for the 1.3 percent increase in the user's fee has withdrawn that qualified support, saying it is changing its position to that of opposition to the measure. In a letter addressed to House Committee on Ways and Means Chair Rep. Stanley T. Torres, the Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc. said it is amending and supplementing its original written testimony to that of non-support for any increase in the current 3.7 percent user's fee rates. "MGM would like to re-state its position and clearly voice a 'non-support' for any increase in existing user fee rates through House Bill 13-158," said MGM in a letter signed by Nicolas Fong and William Fong, representing the firm.

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BlackBerry Curve2 8530 — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $250.00

HTC Hero — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $275.00

HTC Touch Pro2 — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $310.00

Samsung Moment — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $260.00

LG Ally 740 — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $290.00

Sony Ericson Z750A — GSM — $155.00

Motorola ROKR E8 — GSM — $160.00

LG 360 — GSM — $145.00

LG GW300 — GSM — $160.00

Samsung B3310 — GSM — $170.00

BlackBerry 9630 — GSM/CDMA — $340.00

Nokia 5200 — GSM — $110.00

Motorola Z6 — GSM — $120.00

Motorola ROKR E2 — GSM — $110.00

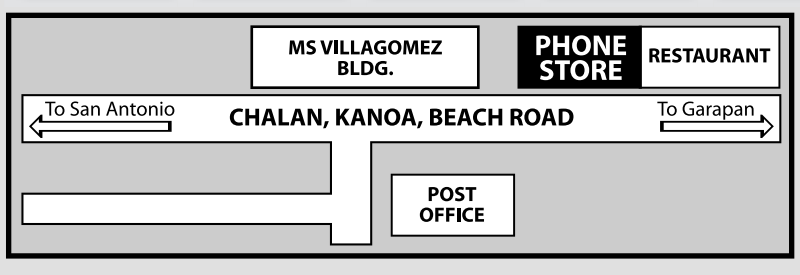
Motorola PEBL U6 — GSM — $80.00

Samsung Gravity 7459 — GSM — $165.00

E71 — GSM, WiFi Phone — $155.00

BlackBerry Bold 9650 — CDMA/GSM, WiFi Phone — $400.00

BlackBerry Bold 8520 — CDMA, WiFi Phone — $280.00



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Opinion

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Stop blaming immigrants

By DAVID A. LOVE
THE PROGRESSIVE MEDIA PROJECT

Undocumented workers did not cause the recession.

Nor did they burst the housing bubble.

And the numbers of undocumented immigrants are going down, even as anti-immigrant sentiment is going up.

This makes no sense, and it amounts to scapegoating of the worst kind.

A new study conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center found that the influx of unauthorized immigrants was about two-thirds smaller from March 2007 to March 2009 than it was from March 2000 to March 2005. This was the sharpest decrease in two decades.

But that hasn't stopped politicians from blaming the nation's woes on these immigrants, or enacting punitive laws that will do nothing to bring back the 10 million jobs lost because the bankers on Wall Street destroyed the economy.

In Arizona, Gov. Jan Brewer signed into law legislation that compels law enforcement to stop and arrest suspected undocumented aliens. It is already having a nasty effect. According to a poll from the Arizona Republic, 48 percent of respondents said Latinos are more likely to be discriminated against than they were six months ago.

The anti-immigrant sentiment sweeping through America has resulted in an increase in hate group activity and hate crimes against Latinos, according to the Southern Poverty Law Center. This racial scapegoating in the United States is distracting people from the real problems, including a full-scale gang war in Mexico fueled by Americans' appetite for drugs. The carnage has claimed 28,000 lives in Mexico since December 2006.

To its credit, the Obama administration has taken steps to make drugs more of a public health issue than a criminal justice issue, with a combined strategy of prevention, treatment and law enforcement. But the White House must do much more in the area of immigration reform, including a comprehensive policy to tackle the problem.

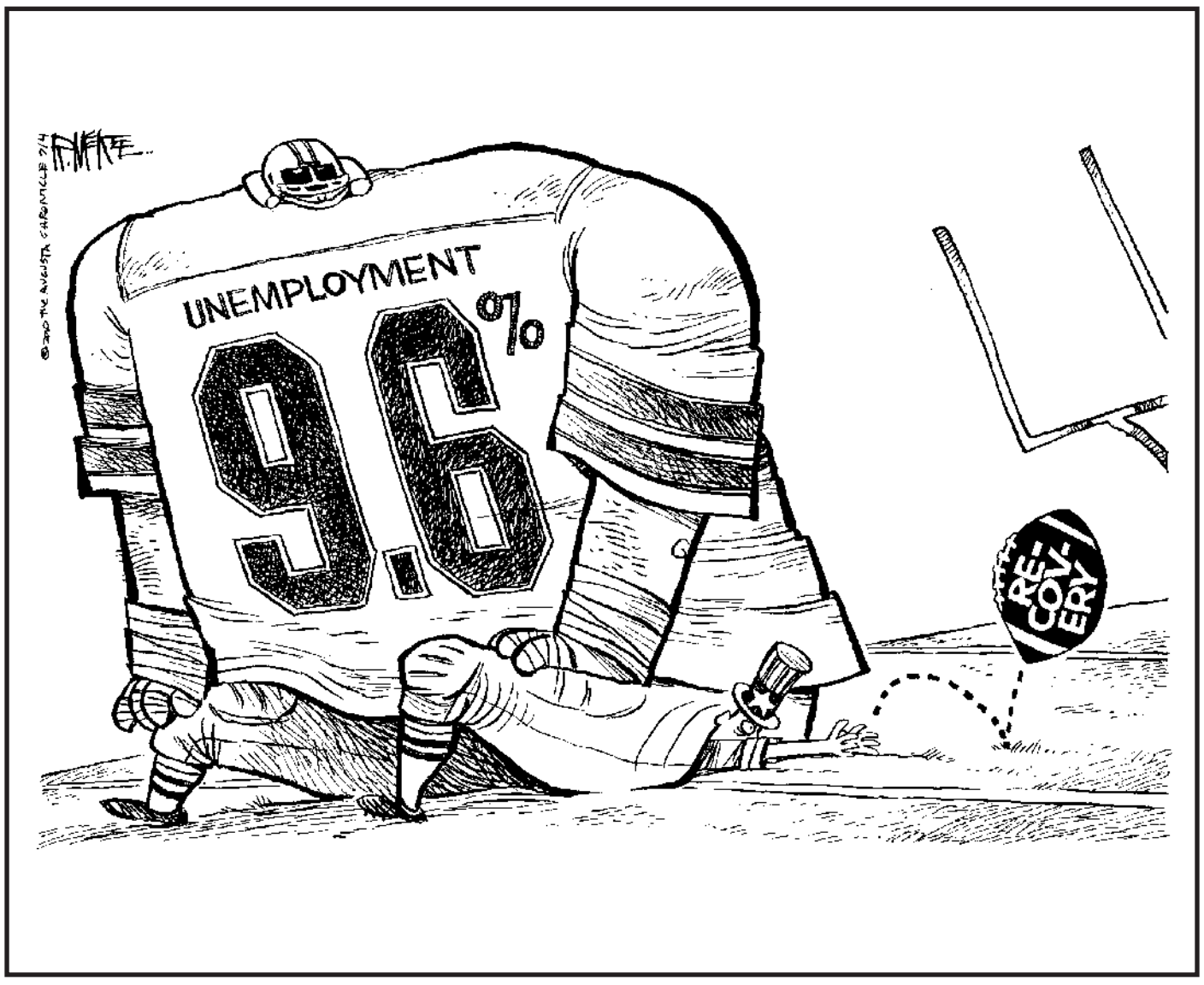
The Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency expects to deport 400,000 people this year, 10 percent more than 2008 under President Bush, and 25 percent more than in 2007. Deportation only serves to separate American children from their parents, and that benefits no one.

We need to stop the arrests and mass deportation of the undocumented. The criminalization of the Latino community is not the way.

A much better way would be to decriminalize drugs to take the profit away from the Mexican drug lords, pass comprehensive immigration reform, keep families together and give people a path to citizenship.

We should be a generous nation, not a punitive one.

David A. Love is the executive editor of BlackCommentator.com. He wrote this for Progressive Media Project, a source of liberal commentary on domestic and international issues; it is affiliated with The Progressive magazine.



Teachers are what matters most

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Film director/producer Davis Guggenheim of *Training Days* and *An Inconvenient Truth* wrote on the Huffington Post, *Repeat After Me: We Can't Have Great Schools Without Great Teachers.* With actress Elizabeth Shue of *Leaving Las Vegas* (with Nicolas Cage), Davis fretted over the assignment of one of their three children to a particular teacher at school. They felt that the quality of their children's schooling is determined by the kind of teacher they get, not an uncommon parents' feeling.

My sister dumped me in first grade when I followed her to school. I was not allowed to return to the same grade level the year after. We were 60 children per classroom, and the principal thought it efficient to move me to the next grade level. Two years younger than my classmates, I was the runt of the litter, and acted like one.

English was the medium of instructions and I was otic more than visual. I learned to hear language and memorize sounds and words. It was not until 4th grade that I finally learned to read the Roman alphabet. A WWII vet who scared my peers but bid me no fear used analogies of fruits and vegetables to illustrate sums and parts, patterns and repetitions in arithmetic. I understood it. Though the smallest, he noticed that I answered problems, so at the end of the day, when I did well, he would lift me up to his table and the class would be told to stand at attention to execute a military hand salute. Heavy, dude.

I learned to read as a consequence, memorized my multiplication table, and paid attention in class. With use of concrete images, my teacher enabled me to learn the abstraction of words and numbers. Today, we tackle crossword and Sudoku as a result. By sixth grade, I was reading to learn. I had a sensitive teacher who tapped into my imagination and encouraged creativity, allowing me to daydream of voyaging across the wide ocean into other shores while pumping water in the artesian well to hydrate the classroom potted plants and the class vegetable garden. A world traveler and earth lover I became.

It was in eighth grade that I discovered Social Studies. Memory and recall was by understanding, not rote. Time as events in history was easy to simulate, and space as geographical places, to imagine. My teacher introduced me to the world of decision-making as the politics of the possible, not as conflict of beliefs, battleground of might, nor a confrontational line in the sand drawn by crazed ideologues that it is today.

Though we were not told to study so that we can have a good job, it was a time when the "survival of the fittest" meant competition, so I joined the ranks of those at the head of the class (sections were divided by report card rating). I remained the runt of the litter of Section One. On the 50th anniversary of my class this year (10th grade finishes high school in the Philippines), returning alumni included dignitaries and executives in the public and private sectors, in and out of the country.

In our home province where one of the favored sons, Ferdinand the-plebian-turned-dictator Marcos, my Social Studies' ken disallowed following his lead while most of my class reveled in the privileged niche afforded by their positions. I skipped town before graduation and didn't look back. Feeling the odd ball, I visited classmates in my travels, but skipped the class reunion and froze my Marianas *dagan* in *Dong Bei* China, instead.

Davis Guggenheim filmed teachers in his 1999 documentary *The First Year,* where the hard work of teaching was evident. Those who make teaching their vocation glory in the sight of their labor a year later. Guggenheim's Sundance-awarded documentary *Waiting for Superman* is about our present public school system needin' fixin'.

When conversations veer into how to fix schools, Guggenheim says, "Just think of one thing, *we can't have great schools without great teachers!* That simple truth makes the solutions pretty clear. Recruit the best and brightest. Develop those we have to be better. Reward the ones doing a great job. Recruit and train talented principals. And after trying everything, help find another job for those teachers who aren't cutting it."

Science reveals that cooperation and collaboration, not competition, is how the fittest survive in any specie. These days, I sing the songs of the unheralded good teachers who have nothing else but the authority of authenticity to go by, hold the image of the interdependence of everything in the planet and find ways to teach it; and the students who recognize what is real, and learn it.

The task of learning the art of living is primary; getting the skill of making a living, second. Dealing with reality rather than illusion is what makes the whole enterprise of education worth the while. Tearing down the structures of delusions is the road to Jerusalem, Rome, Mecca (Lhasa, Ottawa, Moscow, Chicago, Pretoria, Apia, Dubai, Shanghai, Cairo, Tokyo, Katmandu, Rio, also) and Saipan, Tinian, Rota, Guahan. That's the face of today's revolution. Left to their own devices, teachers synergized have within their means the capacity to meet tomorrow's requirements.

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Dating an airport bum

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at TropicalEd.com. Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday.

One Saturday morning I took a gal I was dating up for an airplane ride. My flying pals had dubbed her the Princess because of her snooty demeanor.

Flying was my standard date because I'd spend my time bumming around the airport anyway, giving flying lessons in airplanes and rides in helicopters. I sort of had a job, but sort of didn't have a job, and I was always working, but just about never working, all at the same time. It's hard to describe, that life. It's the life of an airport bum. I found it agreeable.

I'd start each day eating biscuits and gravy at the airport cafe for breakfast, where I'd drink coffee with the other pilots, swat flies, and talk about magnetos and tail rotors.

So on the Saturday morning in question, the Princess and I, naturally, went to the cafe for breakfast before our flight. Bad move. The Princess wrinkled her nose at the biscuits and gravy.

Her verdict was, and I quote: "How redneck."

Said the waitress, who had a two-packs-a-day rasp in her voice, and who had worked at a truck stop before the airport cafe: "Sorry, honey, we don't serve caviar."

I figured we'd better get the Princess out of there before somebody "accidentally" spilled a pot of hot coffee on her white-polka-dots-on-dark-blue-background gabardine dress. So I wound up flying on an empty stomach. If I'm not flying, I don't eat breakfast, but flying on an empty stomach is a lousy way to go.

But it was a clear day, great for flying. The air was smooth and the flight was pleasant. The reason that airport bums don't aspire to anything more is that there's nothing more to aspire to.

Later that morning I was on the hook to help my pal Sparky solder some aircraft radio parts, which would take only a few minutes, so after the flight I went to Sparky's hangar with the Princess. Sparky, seeing that I was in my Prince Charming mode, fished a soda out of his cooler, offered it to her, and cleared off a spot on the couch for her.

"People sit on that?" sniffed the Princess, giving an icy stare down her nose at the couch. "It's filthy."

Uh, yeah, it's a couch in a hangar, not an operating table. So she endured standing up for 15 minutes, her upper lip curled in contempt, while Sparky and I worked on the radios. Sparky owed me lunch for the favor, but there was no way I'd take the Princess back to the cafe for an encore performance. So it was time to go home.

By the time we were back on the road I was starving so I pulled into a McDonald's drive through.

"Surely, you are not taking me to McDonald's," declared the Princess.

Well, actually, no. I was taking myself to McDonald's.

There was a homeless guy standing out front with a hand-lettered sign asking for food. In the drive through, I ordered a couple of meals, and if the Princess didn't want to eat hers, well, not my problem. When I got the food, the McDonald's girl gave me three, not two, meals. So, as I drove out, I gave the extra meal to the homeless guy.

Whereupon the Princess came unglued. "How could you do that? He's a bum. He'll probably sell the food for drugs or something!" She really got a good diatribe going, in a shrill, shrieking whine that resonated through her maxillary sinuses, as she delivered a sweeping condemnation of anyone who wasn't born with trust funds.

But she brightened up when she described our next weekend together, which she had planned, and which included lavish hotels, spas, saunas, and the rest of the checklist from some yuppie lifestyle magazine. Talk about boring pretension. I'd rather hang out at the airport, though I didn't tell her that at the time, of course. So she seemed content enough when I dropped her off at her place, and that was the last I saw of her.

Many of my college chums married gals who were clones of the Princess. These mooks all came to grief for it. And I have to hear about it, as they call me and regale tales of therapists, divorces, visitation rights, counselors, and all manner of unhappy and contentious behavior.

Airport bums don't have it perfect, but I think they've got it pretty good. It was a nice way to live while it lasted, until I went back to having a real job.

Letter to the Editor

Reduction in farce

So here we are, once again, facing another payless payday. The sad thing is, nobody is really sure when everyone will be getting paid. Maybe next Tuesday? Wednesday? Who knows? And it gets worse, because this is only a glimpse of what we can expect in the next coming paydays.

The good news is, emergency personnel will be paid on time. The bad news is, almost everyone else won't. One of the things I have often wondered is, how on earth does this administration get away with failing to pay federally funded employees? If federally funded employees' salaries are paid for by federal funds and it is not coming out of local funds, then why aren't all federally funded employees getting paid on time as well?

If you take federal funds that were intended for something, such as paychecks, and used it for something else, isn't this illegal? Hello? Uncle Sam? FBI? OPA? Anyone out there? If you are a federally funded employee, perhaps now is a good time to write to your headquarters in the U.S. or drop by the OPA or the FBI to ask them to investigate this matter and tell them you are being denied your paycheck. Uncle Sam needs to know.

Okay, I get it. The CNMI is broke, and cuts need to be made. We have seen the House leadership's solution on how to solve this problem: *Reduce everyone's salaries by 25 percent, but double their own discretionary funds*. Obviously, the House leadership is suffering from a "Do as I say, not as I do" mentality and do not believe in sharing the burden.

And, of course, as no surprise, the only solutions to improving the economy coming out of this "leadership" is casinos on Saipan, legalizing marijuana, and legalizing assault rifles and handguns. If you really think about it, this could boost tourism. But perhaps these aren't the kind of tourists we're looking for. I don't know about you, but I don't really want pot-smoking, gun-toting gambling addicts visiting our islands anytime soon.

I think now is the time for the CNMI leadership to get real. Here are a few suggestions to getting the CNMI back on track:

Change to a part-time Legislature. Pass a bill that will create a part-time Legislature, and pay each lawmaker an annual salary of $1. This will easily save the CNMI a minimum of $6 million annually. As for our Rota and Tinian lawmakers, they can temporarily move to Saipan if the part-time Legislature were to have a 90-day legislative cycle and stay in government housing, or they can stay on Tinian and Rota and participate in sessions via Skype or other teleconferencing technology. Having a part-time Legislature is the best thing the CNMI can do because it will open the floodgates for candidates by allowing any person to run without having to give up his or her daytime job.

Have PIC market the CNMI. Yes, you heard me right. While hotel occupancy teeters at 50 percent, PIC Saipan is slammed at 103 percent occupancy. Obviously they are doing something right. PIC Saipan has managed a high occupancy because they not only have a great product, but they do a magnificent job in marketing it!

Keep the CNMI beautiful and friendly. While our leaders are looking for a magic bullet to boost tourism, they are forgetting the fundamental tourism equation: beautiful, clean islands + friendly, welcoming islanders = tourism. We don't need casinos on Saipan. What we need is clean beaches, clean lawns, clean buildings, clean sidewalks, and a warm, friendly welcome to every tourist that visits the CNMI. If we treat every tourist like an honored guest and we keep our island pristine and beautiful, tourists will not only come back…they will come back with their families and friends! What are our tourists seeing today? Dilapidated and abandoned buildings, litter, makeshift dumping grounds, potholes, *tangan tangan* and weeds…and the sad thing is, I'm talking about the Paseo de Marianas and its side streets—the tourism capital itself!

Spit cans for betel nut chewers. Along with keeping our island clean, one type of littering that cannot easily be picked up and cleaned up is betel nut spit. We see it *everywhere*. At every red light. On every sidewalk. On every storefront. If you see concrete, you will most likely see betel nut spit. It is an eyesore, a health hazard, and it is disgusting. Palau had the same problem and they solved it. I was told that they did a public campaign against chewing and spitting, and they also passed out spit cans. Either we get people to stop spitting all over the place, or we start painting all our sidewalks and storefronts red.

Stop joint marketing ventures with Guam. Please, for the love of Spam, stop piggybacking off of Guam when it comes to bringing in tourists. They are a competitor, and all we end up getting is their leftovers. But of course, if PIC Saipan were to market the CNMI, they would know this. We have a chain of islands—Guam has Cocos Island. We have a far better chance of marketing our chain of islands if we do it right. Perhaps ecotourism is one place to start.

Tobacco sin tax now! Our legislators are scrambling to look at how we can generate revenue. How about increasing the tobacco sin tax? Now, before all the cigarette smokers chew me out, please hear me out. I used to think the biggest evil in the CNMI was crystal meth, but I really am beginning to think it is cigarettes. Tobacco has killed and sickened more people than all the illegal drugs in the CNMI combined. We pay millions every year in treating tobacco-related illnesses, and our medical costs continue to escalate. We also see a lot of our youth smoking as well. Why not charge $10 per cigarette pack in sin taxes? If anything will get people to quit smoking, financial burdens certainly will. If people cut back on smoking, then it is still a win-win situation. Smoking is not only killing our people…it is also killing our economy.

My dear leaders, these are only six ideas I came up with, and if you don't like them, don't worry. There are probably about ten thousand better ideas that our community members are willing to share with you—if only you would open your hearts and minds and listen. Sometimes the best ideas come from the most common people—which is probably where most common sense comes from. Leaders, get in touch with your roots. Get a pad of paper and a pen, go out to your villages that you represent, close your mouth, and listen attentively. You may be surprised by what you hear.

While the administration talks about an RIF, or a "Reduction in Force," I believe the CNMI is in greater need of a "Reduction in FARCE." Stop with the shenanigans, the deception, and the old ways of politricks. Let's do things the right way from now on. Let's put people first. It's that simple.

Ed Propst
Dandan, Saipan

9/11 and the Northern Mariana Islands

By GREGORIO KILILI C. SABLAN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan is the delegate of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands to the U.S. Congress.

Fourteen young men and women from the Northern Mariana Islands have now lost their lives while in military service following the attacks of 9/11.

We will never know what contributions these young people might have made to our community had their lives continued. The families they have left behind will never again have the benefit of their love and support.

I ask you all to join me in taking a moment on Saturday, Sept. 11, to pause in remembrance of those 14, whose lives ended much too soon, while serving our nation. They are:

- Army SGT Yihgyh "Eddie" L. Chen (April 4, 2004)
- Army SSG Wilgene T. Lieto (October 31, 2005)
- Army SPC Derence W. Jack (October 31, 2005)
- Army SGT Jesse J. Castro (December 6, 2006)
- Marine LCpl Adam Q. Emul (January 29, 2007)
- Army SPC Leeroy A. Camacho (February 9, 2007)
- Army PFC John D. Flores (May 3, 2007)
- Army PFC Victor M. Fontanilla (May 17, 2007)
- Army SPC Joe G. Charfauros, Jr. (June 20, 2007)
- Navy Seaman Anamarie SanNicolas Camacho (October 22, 2007)
- Army SGT Brian S. Leon Guerrero (July 10, 2008)
- Army SSG Julian F. Manglona (October 9, 2008)
- Air Force SrA Audra P.M. Winkfield (June 19, 2009)
- Marine Cpl Dave M. Santos (July 16, 2010)

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

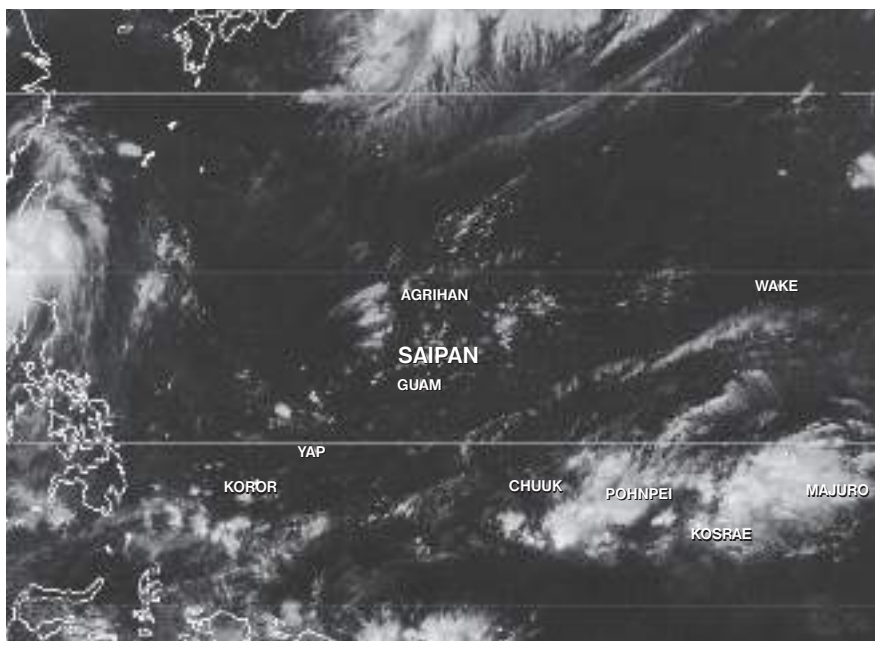
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲85	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲60	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲84	▼64
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲88	▼81
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲87	▼75
London	Showers	▲69	▼61
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼55
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
Melbourne	Rain	▲59	▼50
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼57
Osaka	Sunny	▲92	▼79
Paris	Partly Cloudy	▲72	▼54
Pusan	Windy	▲85	▼77
Rome	Rain	▲81	▼61
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼49
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲58	▼52
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲80	▼72
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲82	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A southwest- to northeast-oriented upper-level trough over the Marianas encompasses two upper-level lows. One is west of Saipan near 15N141E. The second is east of Pagan near 19N152E. Upper-level divergence is producing isolated thunderstorms across the Marianas in a broad area bounded by a line extending from 15N133E to 10N139E to 18N153E to 24N158E and back to 15N133E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and thunderstorms extending westward from Majuro to just east of Chuuk across Kwajalein, Kosrae and Pohnpei in an area bounded by a line extending from 4N150E to 4N171E to 11N174E to 11N154E back to 4N150E. Scattered showers are developing south of Koror south of a line extending from 6N130E to 6N139E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:43 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
8:41 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:02 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
8:51 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:32 AM	7:36 PM
Saturday	8:33 AM	8:24 PM
Sunday	9:34 AM	9:14 PM
Monday	10:34 AM	10:07 PM
Tuesday	11:33 AM	11:01 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2010

DEPARTURES

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	5:00am	5:30am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	Daily
C09605	6:35pm	7:25pm	Daily
C09599	9:35pm	10:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:00am	8:35am	Daily
DL297	3:20pm	5:55pm	Daily
DL289	4:35pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA

DL640	7:40am	10:20am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:10pm	Daily via NRT
DL640/629	7:40am	10:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
C09603/933	3:05pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-Palau
C09599/PR111	9:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	9:30pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	6:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:10pm	6:00pm	Daily
C09606	8:10pm	9:00pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	9:45am	2:20pm	Daily
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:10am+1	Daily

NAGOYA-SAIPAN

DL641	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/605	12:10am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
DL630/641	6:30am	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL172/288	7:40am	1:10am+1	Daily via NRT
C0890/9606	10:55am	9:00pm	6 via GUM
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	10:35pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letter to the Editor

A tribute to wonderful parents

If you were to see me today as a typically joyful person, you probably would have no idea about the many hardships and heartaches I've endured.

Despite having many experiences that were unfavorable, I am very grateful to the Lord for having lived them all. I thank the Creator for placing all those events in my path, and I thank Him for putting the perfect people in my life in those blocks of time.

After the Lord, I am greatly indebted to the parents who loved me beyond measure, Frank and Anicia Tomokane.

I have always wanted to thank my parents in one of the many books I've been working on or have yet to write, but writing what I am writing now comes with a sense of urgency. Waiting for those books is not necessary. Uplifting my dear parents, especially my father, is.

Dad,

Thank you for trusting me with so much and allowing me to flourish as a child. Thank you for teaching me about the love of truth and sound judgment. Thank you for all your hard work so that we could eat, be clothed, educated, and have shelter. Not only did you work hard so that we could have those simple things but also pushed yourself more so that we could have many fun family gatherings at the beach together or with other family members.

Thank you for telling me about your hardships as a child. It helped me to be stronger mentally and also have a more understanding heart. Learning about your rough, poor childhood transformed my life more than you know.

Your experiences encouraged me to "tough it out" and be more grateful about the simplest of things. When I was attending the Naval Academy and running so hard that I tasted blood in my throat, I thought of you. When I was injured from not knowing how to run properly and had to undergo treatment for a couple of months, I thought of you. I had to "ice" the bottom half of my legs in water so cold and painful that it made guys cry in front of me. When we were served food that many midshipmen were complaining about, I thought of you eating rice with coffee. My food always seemed like a feast compared to what you ate. People wondered how I could be so happy to eat everything that was served, and I would tell them that we were so blessed to have it. Whenever times seemed so tough there, I thought about your childhood. I thought about how hard you worked to go to college. I thought about how hard you worked when I was a child, and I thought about how hard you were working back on Saipan.

Thank you for being happy with me no matter what my grades were or what my pursuits were. You never pushed me to be anything I did not want to be. Seeing that you loved me no matter what—no matter what endeavor I chose to do—was a blessing to me. I knew that you loved me, a visionary child, no matter what I wanted to accomplish. I know that you love me now, your visionary adult daughter.

Thank you for your patience and willingness to help me when I was unable to drive when I worked on Saipan and when I was too pregnant to reach my steering wheel when Tim was deployed.

Thank you for working so hard on all my projects in Guam when I didn't realize how ambitious I was getting while still very pregnant. You planted all those trees and battled large rocks just so that I could have my miniature orchard in my front yard. I remember you coming in the house extremely sore from all the yard work but still able to be cheerful and laugh with Heistheway, my excited toddler. Thank you for giving me many breaks and cooking many meals so that I could relax.

Thank you especially for staying with me until I gave birth to Pelaiah. When Tim had to suddenly deploy to Indonesia because of the earthquake and would not be with me for months or Pelaiah's birth, I didn't know how I was going to handle everything. You took care of mowing my yard so that we wouldn't get kicked out of base housing with the strict base-housing yard rules. You also mowed so many families' yards because their husbands were gone and they had many little ones to care for. Not only did you take care of mowing, trimming the limbs, and ensuring that we weren't in trouble with our yards, but you did it with joy and without charge. Thank you for taking me to the birthing center and helping me take care of Heistheway as we waited for mom and Kai's arrival that morning. I didn't think that you would stay with me those many months that Tim was away because it was such a long time to ask you to be away from your own family on Saipan. Whenever others asked me who was going to be with me when I gave birth or who was to care for Heistheway I always told them that I wasn't sure. I couldn't have done all that I did without you, Dad.

Mom,

You have taught us to love people no matter how unlovable they can be. Whenever someone treated you poorly or treat us poorly, you taught me to be understanding of them because they might just be having a bad day or had a rough life for some reason. You didn't let their bad attitude get to you. You just went about your merry way trying to bring happiness to other people's lives around you.

Thank you for always being so excited about what we had to say and for making us feel as if we could do almost anything that we dreamed of doing, even "go to the moon and back." Because of your amazing support and belief in us I felt confident enough to apply to places like JSA's Stanford and Georgetown sessions and the U.S. Naval Academy. Because you believed in me, accomplishing so many feats throughout my childhood seemed possible.

I could write a book about you, thanking you for your unselfishness and contagious enthusiasm for life, but I must end this note now as I need to tend to precious little ones and my loving, godly husband.

I love you both and wish that we could do more for you during these uncertain times in Saipan. We continue to pray for you and look forward to seeing you soon. We love you all very much!

Grateful for you both,

Franicia Tomokane White
The Panhandle, Florida

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!
Join us this SATURDAY morning, SEPTEMBER 11, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

#4

Hafa Adai & Tiroow,

I am the Colonel Alexandro Sablan and I am supporting the candidacy of Juan Nekai Babauta for the U.S. Congress.

He has the experience and exposure in Washington and with that we can rest assured that our interest and welfare will be heard and addressed in Congress.

I urge each and every one of you to please exercise your right to vote and vote for Juan Nekai Babauta, number 4 on the ballot. The dedicated public servant.

With Juan, we can work things out in Washington.

Si Colonel.

JUAN IS THE ONE

Proven Leadership. Proven Record.

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Letters to the Editor

A myth buster for teachers!

This is in response to the letter "Collective Bargaining Myth" that needs to be busted. The fact that collective bargaining for teachers was taken out of the CNMI Constitution *does not* erase this right of CNMI teachers under federal law!

I predicted a very long time ago that teachers are not going to get their bargaining rights until a national union comes in to assist them. The Education Board has clearly chosen to throw away the potential for CNMI teachers to do their own bargaining without a union when they got the Constitution changed. The Board is clearly gambling that teachers will never organize and seek the assistance of a union for official recognition. History has taught us that eventually there is going to be an event or issue of such magnitude that teachers are eventually going to say "enough is enough" and seek the help of a federal union—which clearly implies federal intervention or federalization.

Our government must be structured with checks and balances in place during their daily operations, not periodically. The autonomous status of the Public School System and NMC has protected these institutions from government interference, which is a good thing but the de-habilitating flaw is the lack of a check and balance within these institutions. This is the main reason why the school system has been chasing the mainland school districts for the past 30 years and our students still haven't caught up with their counterparts on the mainland. It is also the main reason NMC has never progressed and continues to flounder as a community college. Had the proper checks been in place, a lot of the bad things that have happened within these institutions would have never happened.

The only check that can be placed on these institutions is by employees within PSS and NMC—not from the outside. Presently, we can only hold the state Board accountable every two years in the election of some officers, not the entire board. With NMC having a politically appointed board, the people can never place a direct check on the NMC Board, which is why NMC will forever continue to go through even more challenges than the Public School System.

The collective bargaining power of teachers, instructors and professors represents the badly need check for our education system. The teachers, instructors and professors at our educational institutions know what is best for their students and yet teachers, instructors and professors in the CNMI don't have any real power to influence policies. I tried to get the Board to bargain with our teachers to avoid a union and federal expectations but we all saw what they tried to do to me for simply trying to give teachers their rights.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Payless payday

Do you know how hard it is for families to not have payday during this time of hardship? Especially for those who get less and are not qualified for food assistance. Why not change "payless paydays" to halfway paydays for everyone? Come on, we all have necessities so we could live. Do not take away food money for families that are not qualified for food stamps, unless you instruct Karidat to give food to those in need. But then again, do they have enough? What about the children who need lunch money?

Someone, please do something about this, because the last time this happened, I saw a lot of families suffer. Some didn't go to work because they had no gas, no laundry money, no food money. One had to go fishing and hunting, and I saw some stealing food from others. Some borrow money. One parent said she is on medication; what if there is no money for her medicine?

Why are you choosing who is more important to get paid and who is not? Better close that office so they can look for another job if you think they are not essential. Can someone explain why is it essential for some to get paid and the others not? I mean, yes, their service is essential, but their getting paid first is not as essential as those with living necessities. I can understand if we all get paid half until there are funds, but not to get paid at all is really hurting for some.

Please fix this ridiculous decision that you made, because it is against God's law to make people starve, especially children and those who are bedridden. Please hire someone who can assist you to make better decisions to help us get through this economic depression. And send those non-essential employees to the private sector while on government payroll to get training, so that when your term is finished, they have another job to apply to and the private sector will get free service from them or let private companies pay 20 percent of these employees salary. Isn't this better?

Winnie Atalig,
San Jose Tinian

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Fitial wants to hire 6 more for election panel, three at DCCA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial wants to hire six new employees for the Commonwealth Election Commission ahead of the Nov. 2 delegate election, and three others for the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs.

"The filling of these vacant positions are of vital importance for the efficient delivery of essential public service. Continuing appropriations are available for the full personnel cost associated with this vacancy," Fitial said in two separate letters to Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan).

Fitial's Aug. 31 letter certifies the following vacant positions at the Election Commission: one community service coordinator, one administrative officer, one administrative specialist, and three election register clerks.

The governor said these positions must be filled during the period of the present continuing resolution.

Filling these vacant positions is also critical, with less than two months to go before voters elect their delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Fitial also certified to the Legislature the following vacant positions at DCCA: one juvenile corrections worker, and two social workers I.

"By copy of this letter, I am requesting the appropriate entities to assist in filling these positions referred herein," he said, referring to the Election Commission and DCCA.

Joint exercise Valiant Shield 2010 to begin

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii—A U.S. Navy carrier strike group and amphibious ready group will join a forward-deployed U.S. Air Force air expeditionary wing and Marine Corps units for exercise Valiant Shield 2010.

Valiant Shield, scheduled from Sept. 12 - 21 (Guam time), begins in the vicinity of Palau and consists of an opposed transit as the ships steam east and ends near Guam. This is the third Valiant Shield conducted by the United States since June 2006.

The Valiant Shield series focuses on integrated joint training among U.S. military forces. It enables real-world proficiency in sustaining joint forces' ability to detect, locate, track and engage units at sea, in the air, on land and in cyberspace in response to a range of mission areas. Throughout this exercise, safety and the environment are top priorities and were significantly considered when planning conferences started for the exercise in 2009. ***(CPF)***

Judge dismisses ex-Ladera principal's lawsuit

The federal court granted Wednesday the request of a former principal of the defunct Ladera International School of Saipan to dismiss his lawsuit against the school's owner.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances M. Tydingco-Gatewood found Richard Louis Nigh's voluntary motion to dismiss the case proper.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Nigh asked for the case's dismissal because all claims originate and sound in CNMI law, and he wishes to add parties in the case.

The judge also noted that defendant Young Nam Park has not filed a counterclaim.

Nigh, through counsel Loren A. Sutton, asked the federal court to dismiss his lawsuit against Park. He asserted that there are no federal claims in this lawsuit.

Sutton said Nigh also desires to add his employer, Ladera School, as a party to this action in order to prosecute his claims for constructive termination and breach of contract.

Sutton said Nigh has changed attorneys and that attorney Robert Torres represented the former principal in the lawsuit filed in the Superior Court.

In that lawsuit filed last week in the Superior Court, Nigh sued ILC Corp., owner of Ladera International School of Saipan, Park, and 10 unnamed co-defendants, for breach of contract, constructive discharge, interference with contract, and intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Nigh had accused Park of subjecting him to verbal abuse, causing him to suffer from a major depression. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Birthday greetings go out to Juan George M. Pua II, right, who is celebrating his 3rd birthday today, Sept. 10, 2010! We love you and may you continue to be blessed with many wonderful birthdays to come! Love, Dad, Mom, Elphie, Hayashi, and the rest of the family.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday greetings to Abbi Hamilton Delos Reyes, who will be celebrating her special day on Sunday, Sept 12! May you be blessed on your special day with lots of love, presents and many more birthday's to come! Love, Jeff, Mom, Brandon and Ethan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy Birthday to our little "Explorer" Destynee Isa Tenorio Aguon! May you be blessed with many more birthdays to come! With so much love, Daddy, Mommy, and Sister Ophing

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to Joaquin "Jack" Castro, who is celebrating his special day today, Sept. 10, 2010! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Joaquin Castro Jr., who is celebrating his special day today, Sept. 11, 2010! May you enjoy your birthday and may you have many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Randall, Aunty Rit, family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Belated happy birthday greetings to Cil Dela Cruz, who celebrated his special day on Sept. 8, 2010! Greetings come from your family and friends!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Ramon Sablan, who will be marking his special day tomorrow, Sept. 11, 2010! Greetings come from your Joeten Ace Hardware family!

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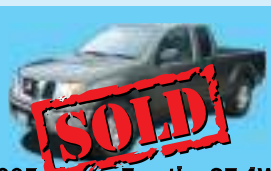
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Maintenance worker sues 2 lawyers for alleged malpractice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A maintenance worker is suing two lawyers and a law firm for legal malpractice after they allegedly neglected and abandoned his complaints filed with the Department of Labor and in federal court.

Wilson J. Apostol sued attorney Colin M. Thompson and his law firm, Thompson Law Office LLC, and attorney Gil Birnrich. for legal malpractice, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, and breach of duty of loyalty.

Apostol filed the lawsuit through counsels Robert H. Myers Jr. and Ramon K. Quichocho.

He is seeking unspecified damages, attorney's fees, and court costs, and wants a jury trial.

When reached for comments yesterday, attorney Robert T. Torres, counsel for the defendants, said that Apostol's allegations and claims are baseless and without merit.

"We will vigorously defend and respond in court," Torres said.

Myers and Quichocho said this case is about lawyers not doing what they are supposed to do to protect their client's interests.

Myers and Quichocho alleged in the complaint that when Apostol's cases became hopelessly compromised, one of the lawyers (Thompson) fabricated false accusations against Apostol in order to withdraw as counsel in one of the cases.

The case arose from a labor complaint Apostol filed against Golden Bird Corp., where he had worked as a building maintenance worker since 1999. He was terminated in August 2009, months ahead of his contract's expiration on Jan. 22, 2010. He claimed unpaid overtime compensation.

Apostol, with the assistance of the Federal Ombudsman, filed a pro se (no lawyer) complaint with Labor against Golden Bird, for wrongful termination, breach of employment contract, and violations of the Commonwealth Employment Act of 2007.

Thompson and Apostol then allegedly executed a 33 percent contingency fee engagement agreement requiring the law firm to prosecute Apostol's claims against Golden Bird in Labor, other administrative agencies, the Superior Court, or the U.S. District Court.

The law office had computed the overtime payment Golden Bird owes Apostol from August 2003 to Dec. 31, 2008, at $78,446.30 and a staff at the law firm had explained to Apostol that he is entitled to this amount.

In the Labor hearing, Apostol appeared with Birnbrich, a member of Thompson's law office, for mediation, which was unsuccessful. The hearing officer denied all of Apostol's requested relief, according to Myers and Quichocho, because the law firm failed to file an amended labor complaint before the hearing.

"But, worse, as a result of defendants' incompetence and legal malpractice, Apostol's umbrella permit is subject to revocation," they said.

In the federal court case, Myers and Quichocho said that Thompson allegedly told Apostol to settle for $1,000, but Apostol said he would think about it, since he has already relied on the representation that he is entitled to $78,446.30.

Thompson allegedly told Apostol that if he loses the case, Apostol will pay the attorney's fees or he will be jailed.

"Thompson was merely trying to intimidate, harass, bully and or scare Apostol into settling for $1,000, because Thompson knew or should have known that Apostol will not be put in jail even if Thompson loses the case for Apostol, because the federal court case is not a criminal case," Myers and Quichocho said.

In May 2010, the lawyers said, Thompson and his law office began paving the way to withdraw as counsel by misrepresenting facts that Apostol has not cooperated and has not always been truthful. Thompson and his law firm allegedly falsely accused Apostol of giving contradictory answers, among other false accusations.

Court asked to dismiss ex-convict's suit

The Office of the Attorney General has asked the federal court to dismiss the complaint filed by a convicted woman who had sued Department of Corrections officials and the CNMI government for allegedly extending her detention by 88 days.

Assistant attorney general Elchonon D. Golob said that Yu Hua Jin Aquino's complaint should be junked "for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted."

Golob filed the motion on behalf of the CNMI government, former Department of Corrections commissioner Dolores San Nicolas (Aldan) and DOC official Gregory F. Castro.

Aquino's initial complaint was dismissed because the court had ruled that Aquino's 88-day pre-removal detention period was constitutional.

The court allowed Aquino to refile the lawsuit to allege new facts in her claim of intentional infliction of emotional distress.

Golob pointed out, though, that Aquino's amended complaint allege the same facts as the initial complaint.

According to the lawsuit, Aquino languished in prison from April 13, 2009 through May 15, 2009. She was to complete her imprisonment for possession of illegal drugs on April 13, 2009, followed by deportation to China.

The complaint said Aquino was not immediately deported and was instead held in continuing custody.

On July 9, 2009, Aquino retained a private counsel. The following day, the court released her. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Release of Record of Decision on Final EIS moved to Sept. 21

The Record of Decision on the Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands Military Relocation Final Environmental Impact Statement will be released on Monday, Sept. 20 (Tuesday, Sept. 21 in the Marianas). No time is given.

It was previously scheduled for release on Friday, Sept. 10.

According to a release, the delay is necessary to ensure that all comments received on the FEIS are able to be fully considered in the Record of Decision. In addition, the consultation processes under the National Historic Preservation Act and Endangered Species Act are still ongoing.

The Record of Decision will detail the Department of Navy and Department of Army decisions related to the following proposed actions on Guam and Tinian:

■ Development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support the relocation from Okinawa to Guam of approximately 8,600 Marines and their 9,000 dependents; development and construction of facilities and infrastructure to support training and operations on Guam and Tinian for the relocated Marines.

■ Construction of a new deep-draft wharf with shoreside infrastructure improvements creating the capability in Apra Harbor, Guam to support a transient nuclear powered aircraft carrier.

■ Development of facilities and infrastructure on Guam to support the relocation of approximately 600 military personnel and their 900 dependents and the establishment and operation of an Army Air Missile Defense task Force.

"We appreciate that the Navy has decided to delay the release of the Record of Decision. We believe the additional time allows the Navy the opportunity to thoroughly review the comments provided by the people of Guahan regarding the FEIS," said Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and Lt. Gov. Michael W. Cruz, M.D., in statement yesterday.

"[The delay] will help ensure that the federal government has a better understanding of our island's concerns, and we are hopeful that with this additional time they will find ways to satisfactorily address our concerns," the two officials said. ***(PR)***

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Man gets 30-day sentence for illegal drug possession

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A man flagged down by police for riding a scooter without a helmet and found in possession of "ice" and marijuana was sentenced to 30 days in prison yesterday.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo sentenced Jesus Jose Aldan Leon Guerrero to 30 days for two counts of possession of controlled substance, with credit for the seven days he had already served in jail.

Leon Guerrero was allowed to start serving the balance of his sentence—23 days—on Sept. 13, 2010, at 5pm.

After serving his sentence, Leon Guerrero will be placed on six months of probation and required to undergo substance abuse counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Leon Guerrero was ordered to pay a $25 court assessment fee and a $60 probation fee.

There will be a review hearing on Feb. 10, 2011, to determine whether Leon Guerrero is complying with the terms and conditions of his sentence.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Leon Guerrero with one count of illegal possession of controlled substance ("ice") and one count of illegal possession of controlled substance (marijuana).

He pleaded guilty to both as part of a plea agreement.

A police officer had stopped Leon Guerrero on Feb. 23, 2010, in Chalan Kanoa for not wearing a helmet while riding a scooter along Beach Road.

Leon Guerrero ran away but was later caught. The officer found in Leon Guerrero's possession .2 grams of "ice" and a stick of marijuana.

Detective Dennis M. Reyes said that Leon Guerrero admitted purchasing the "ice" from a male person at a store and that he has been smoking "ice" for 26 years now.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Teen rockers audition!

The organization "Thespians of the Western Pacific Islands" is holding auditions for high school students who are interested in playing the music for the rock 'n roll musical comedy, *Zombie Prom*. The TWPI hopes to stage the show around Halloween or in November. This is an opportunity for students to rehearse with musical drama students and play a full Broadway-style show in production (three presentations of the show).

Students can pick up the audition sheet music at MHS, Room D 101, on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2010, between 4pm and 6pm. Musician auditions will be held at the same place on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010, from 6pm to 8pm. Students can audition individually or as a band (with their band members). ***(PR)***

SGA September Ace 2010 set

The SGA September Ace 2010 is scheduled at the Kingfisher Golf Links on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010. Show time is at 9:30am and tee time is at 10:30am. ***(PR)***

Green Meadow School's PTA meeting

The Green Meadow School will have its PTA meeting today, Sept. 10, 2010, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the school's campus. Important matters, issues, concerns, etc., will be discussed. ***(PR)***

Saipan Magic Show tomorrow in Kagman

The Kagman Komunidat Association will be hosting the Saipan Magic Show. The show will take place tomorrow, Sept. 11, at 7pm at the Kagman Community Center. Tickets are only $10. For every four tickets that are purchased, the 5th ticket will be free.

Magic Ryan from Guam will be performing amazing magic tricks that involve magic ropes, cards, and levitation. Magic Ryan is Hawaii's 1999 Champion Magician. Children from the audience will also get a chance to be a part of the magic show. Seating is limited. Proceeds will go to the Kagman Komunidat Association. KKA is a nonprofit group that helps empower the community of Kagman. Contact 483-7769 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Health Secretary on Marianas Agupa tomorrow

This Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, Marianas Agupa will feature Kevin Villagomez, Secretary of Health. The show is from 10am to 10:30am on Magic 100.3 FM. Topic of discussion will be the CHC's effort on recruitment of needed doctors and nurses and the status of the Commonwealth Health Corp.

Former representative Tina Sablan will also be on the show between 9:30am and 10am.

The Chamorro Talk Show Program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona with a special guest host, former mayor Joseph S. Inos. The talk show airs every Saturday from 9am to 11am. There will also be a special report from Rota correspondent and commentator Thomas D. Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent and radio commentator David M. Cing.

Additionally, Marianas Agupa welcomes Tina Sablan as Saipan correspondent and commentator for Marianas Agupa. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

Second Saturday Strides this Saturday

Bring friends and family and come down to the Commonwealth Cancer Association's *Second Saturday Strides* this Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, from Minatchom Atdao to Quartermaster Intersection and back. Enjoy a refreshing morning run/walk and help raise funds for cancer awareness and patient support programs too. Registration starts at 5:30am, and a $5 donation fee is requested.

In recognition of Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, participants are asked to wear blue, and survivors are encouraged to wear their survivor shirts from the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Second Saturday Strides is made possible through the support of Micronesian Brokers (CNMI), Inc., Foremost Foods, the Department of Public Health Comprehensive Cancer Control Program, and volunteers of the Commonwealth Cancer Association. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, at 10am, at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Power outage on Saturday

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announces that there will be a power outage on Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010, from 7:30am to 10am on Kiya 1. Areas affected will be from San Vicente (Adventure Store) up to Papago (Botanical Garden). The power distribution crew will be replacing rotted primary power poles along Isa Drive. This outage is necessary to allow the linemen to work safely on the power lines. ***(PR)***

Int'l Coastal Cleanup this month

Join the entire Commonwealth for the 25th annual International Coastal Cleanup on Sept. 24, Friday, or Sept. 25, Saturday. To sign-up for the event, complete the sign-up sheet and fax it to Rachel Zuercher, Coastal Resources Management, at 664-8315. For more information, call 664-8305 or email - rachel.zuercher@crm.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Business

Obama firm, won't yield on tax hike for wealthiest

CLEVELAND (AP)—Politically weakened but refusing to bend, President Barack Obama insisted Wednesday that Bush-era tax cuts be cut off for the wealthiest Americans, joining battle with Republicans—and some fellow Democrats—just two months before bruising midterm elections.

Singling out House GOP leader John Boehner in his home state, Obama delivered a searing attack on Republicans for advocating "the same philosophy that led to this mess in the first place: cut more taxes for millionaires and cut more rules for corporations."

Obama rolled out a trio of new plans to help spur job growth and invigorate the sluggish national economic recovery. They would expand and permanently extend a research and development tax credit that lapsed in 2009, allow businesses to write off 100 percent of their investments in equipment and plants through 2011 and pump $50 billion into highway, rail, airport and other infrastructure projects.

The package was assembled by the president's economic team after it became clear that the recovery was running out of steam. There was a political component, too: With Democrats in danger of losing control of the House in November, Obama is under heavy pressure to show voters that he and his party are ready to do more to get the economy moving and get millions of jobless Americans back to work.

However, none of Wednesday's proposals, nor Obama's call for allowing tax rates to rise for the wealthiest Americans, seems likely to be acted on by Congress before the elections, reflecting the battering Obama and congressional Democrats have taken in public opinion polls.

Obama made one of his strongest appeals yet to allow the tax cuts passed under President George W. Bush—in 2001 and 2003—to expire at the end of the year on schedule, but just for individuals earning more than $200,000 annually or joint filers earning over $250,000. The changes would affect dividend and capital gains rates and various other tax benefits as well as income from wages and salaries.

The president's strategy—pushing for legislation to save some tax cuts but not all—carries its own risks. Since all the tax breaks would expire automatically at the end of the year if Congress failed to act, that could result in sweeping increases for taxpayers at every income level—a major blow to recovery hopes and a colossal dose of blame for voters to parcel out to lawmakers and the White House.

BP report blames itself, others for oil spill

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—BP took some of the blame for the Gulf oil disaster in an internal report issued Wednesday, acknowledging among other things that it misinterpreted a key pressure test of the well. But in a possible preview of its legal strategy, it also pointed the finger at its partners on the doomed rig.

The highly technical, 193-page report attributes the worst offshore oil spill in U.S. history and the rig explosion that set it off to a complex chain of failures both human and mechanical. Some of those problems have been made public over the past 4 1/2 months, such as the failure of the blowout preventer to clamp the well shut.

The report is far from the definitive ruling on the cause of the catastrophe. For one thing, government investigators have not yet begun to fully analyze the blowout preventer, which was raised from the bottom of the sea over Labor Day weekend.

But it provides an early look at the company's probable legal strategy—spreading the blame among itself, rig owner Transocean, and cement contractor Halliburton—as it deals with hundreds of lawsuits, billions of dollars in claims and possible criminal charges in the coming months and years.

Critics of BP called the report self-serving.

"This report is not BP's mea culpa," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., a member of a congressional panel investigating the spill. "Of their own eight key findings, they only explicitly take responsibility for half of one. BP is happy to slice up blame as long as they get the smallest piece."

The report's conclusions stand in contrast to a widely seen BP ad campaign in which the company casts no blame for the explosion and vows to clean up and restore the Gulf Coast.

"BP blaming others for the Gulf oil disaster is like Bernie Madoff blaming his accountant," said Robert Gordon, an attorney for fishermen, hotels and restaurants affected by the spill. Another plaintiff's lawyer, W. Mark Lanier, scoffed: "This is like the ringleader of a lynch mob saying, `Well, I didn't bring the rope; he did.'"

The disaster began when the Deepwater Horizon exploded off the coast of Louisiana on April 20, killing 11 workers. BP's well spewed more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf before a temporary cap stopped it in mid-July.

Members of Congress, industry experts and workers who survived the blast have accused BP's engineers of cutting corners to save time and money on a project that was 43 days and more than $20 million behind schedule at the time of the blast.

Nearly 24 hours before the explosion, Halliburton was using cement to seal the gap between the well casing and the hole drilled in the seafloor. It was also cementing the bottom of the well shut until the day BP was ready to begin extracting oil and gas from it.

BoH free seminar on budgeting on Sept. 15

As part of its Smart Money series of seminars, the Bank of Hawaii is offering a free seminar on "Budgeting" on Sept. 15.

The seminar will be held from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at Bank of Hawaii's Garapan Branch along Pale Arnold Road in Puerto Rico. The speakers are Marc Parico and Joanne Aldan.

The same seminar will also be offered in Koror, Palau.

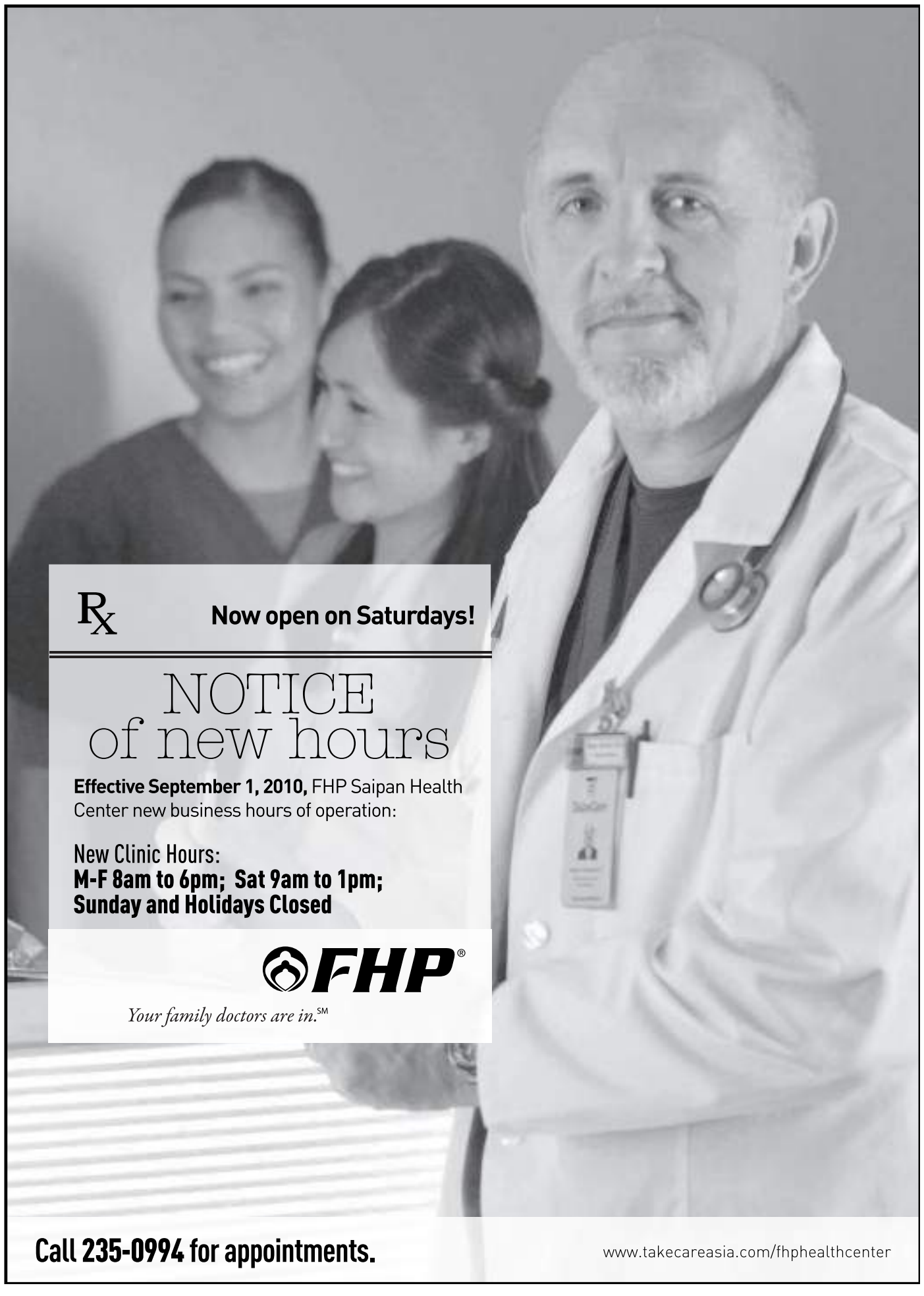
The workshop will familiarize attendees with the tools they would need to create their own personal financial plan and help them make the most of their money.

In this seminar, they will learn:

- How to create financial objectives;
- How to analyze your spending; and
- Strategies to keep you on track to meet your goals.

Bank of Hawaii's Smart Money Seminars are held as a community service throughout the year. They are free and open to anyone to attend. For more information, visit www.boh.com/pacificseminars.

One may also request a free seminar for the community, coworkers, or non-profit group. Just go to https://www.boh.com/landing-pages/965.asp to request for one. ***(BoH)***


Rx
Now open on Saturdays!
NOTICE
of new hours
Effective September 1, 2010, FHP Saipan Health Center new business hours of operation:
New Clinic Hours:
M-F 8am to 6pm; Sat 9am to 1pm;
Sunday and Holidays Closed
FHP
Your family doctors are in.SM
Call 235-0994 for appointments.
www.takecareasia.com/fhphealthcenter

Nation

Fla. minister determined to hold 9/11 Quran burn

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP)—The leader of a small Florida church that espouses anti-Islam philosophy said Wednesday he was determined to burn copies of the Quran on Sept. 11, despite pressure from the White House, religious leaders and others to call it off.

Pastor Terry Jones said at a press conference that he has received a lot of encouragement, with supporters mailing copies of the Islamic holy text to his Gainesville church of about 50 followers. He proclaimed in July that he would stage "International Burn-a-Quran Day" to mark the ninth anniversary of 9/11.

"As of right now, we are not convinced that backing down is the right thing," said Jones, who took no questions.

Jones said he has received more than 100 death threats and has started carrying a .40-caliber pistol since announcing his plan to burn the book Muslims consider the word of God and insist be treated with the utmost respect. Jones, 58, was flanked by an armed escort Wednesday.

Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. and NATO commander in Kabul, took the rare step of a military leader taking a position on a domestic matter when he warned in an e-mail to The Associated Press that "images of the burning of a Quran would undoubtedly be used by extremists in Afghanistan—and around the world—to inflame public opinion and incite violence."

Petraeus spoke Wednesday with Afghan President Karzai about the matter, according to a military spokesman Col. Erik Gunhus. "They both agreed that burning of a Quran would undermine our effort in Afghanistan, jeopardize the safety of coalition troopers and civilians," Gunhus said, and would "create problems for our Afghan partners ... as it likely would be Afghan police and soldiers who would have to deal with any large demonstrations."

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that the pastor's plans were outrageous, and along with Defense Secretary Robert Gates, urged Jones to cancel the event.

Appeals court lets government halt torture lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A sharply divided federal appeals court on Wednesday threw out a lawsuit challenging a controversial post-Sept. 11 CIA program that flew terrorism suspects to secret prisons.

The complaint was filed by five terrorism suspects who were arrested shortly after 9/11 and say they were flown by a Boeing Co. subsidiary to prisons around the world where they were tortured. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals cited national security risks when it dismissed the men's case in a 6-5 ruling Wednesday.

The case could have broad repercussions on the national security debate as it makes its way toward the Supreme Court, and it casts a spotlight on the controversial "extraordinary rendition" program the Bush administration used after 9/11.

The Obama administration subsequently said it would continue to send foreign detainees to other countries for questioning, but rarely—and only if U.S. officials are confident the prisoners will not be tortured.

The appeals court reinforced the broad powers of the president to invoke the so-called "state secrets privilege" to stop lawsuits involving national security almost as soon as they are filed.

Colorado wildfire destroys more than 130 homes

BOULDER, Colo. (AP)—A wildfire burning in the canyons and steep mountainsides near Boulder became one of the most destructive blazes in Colorado history Wednesday as authorities determined it had destroyed at least 135 homes in just three days.

The dire assessment came on the same day firefighters were able to contain about 10 percent of the blaze that has scorched about 6,200 acres, or roughly 10 square miles. It was the first time officials reported being able to hold any part of the 20-mile-long fire perimeter.

Firefighters encountered a tangle of rattlesnakes, downed power lines and combustible propane tanks and struggled to get an upper hand on the inferno.

The Boulder County sheriff's office said Wednesday that 135 homes have been destroyed—a toll likely to rise as the blaze rages on and firefighters get a clearer picture of the damage.

About 3,500 people have been evacuated from about 1,000 homes stemming from a fire that broke out in a parched area near of Boulder on Monday. Residents of four neighborhoods will be allowed to return home Thursday morning. It wasn't clear how many homes that involves.

Four people remain missing as some residents have stayed behind and risked their lives to try to save their homes.

No deaths or injuries have been reported at this point, and the cause of the fire was not known.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
CJPA - CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY
Criminal Justice Statistical Analysis Center

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds
The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is announcing the availability of federal funds from the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ). These Grant Programs includes the Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (JAG); Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT); Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP); Victims of Crimes Act (VOCA) which are programs of the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and a Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) grant program under the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW).
A brief description and amounts available for each program are listed below, less planning and administrative costs stipulated under each programs and are allotted to CJPA as the Designated State Administering Agency (DSAA) for these programs in the CNMI.

I. ***Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant: FY2010 $339,290.00.***
Proposed as a mechanism to streamline justice funding and grant administration, the JAG Program allows states, tribes, and local governments to support a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime based on their own local needs and conditions. JAG replaces the previous Byrne Formula and Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Programs with a single funding mechanism to provide agencies with the flexibility to prioritize and place justice funds where they are needed most, and simplifies the administration process for grantees. The JAG purpose areas are: Law Enforcement Programs, Prosecution and Court Programs, Prevention and Education Programs, Corrections and Community Corrections Programs, Drug Treatment Programs and Planning, Evaluation, Technology Improvement Programs, and Crime victim and witness programs (other than compensation). Any law enforcement or justice initiative previously eligible for funding under Byrne or LLEBG is eligible for JAG funding.

Funds under this program may be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals.

II. **Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Program**
The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Grants are made available by the Department of Justice to fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvements, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The purpose for this category is to provide "at-risk" youth and delinquent offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs or projects may include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, youth centers, outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self- image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

1. ***Title II Formula Grant: FY 2010: $30,000.00.***
The OJJDP Title II grants are made available to specifically fund programs that address Youth Development, Juvenile Justice System Improvement, and Juvenile Delinquency Prevention. The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program has four core-requirements that must be maintained. They are: 1) Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders; 2) Sight and Sound Separation between juvenile and adult inmates; 3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups and 4) The Disproportionate Minority Contact issue. Beyond these requirements, these funds can be used for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services.

2. ***Title V Delinquency Prevention Program: FY2010 $20,177.00.***
Established in the 1992 through the reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Act of 1974, the Title V grant program is made available to funds collaborative and community-based delinquency prevention efforts. The program integrates six (6) fundamental principles and they are: comprehensive and multidisciplinary approaches, research foundation for planning, community control and decision-making, leveraging of resources and systems, evaluation to monitor program progress and effectiveness, and a long-term perspective to form a strategic approach to reducing juvenile delinquency. Title V provides funding and a framework to enable communities to develop and implement comprehensive 3-year prevention/strategic plans that are designed to reduce risk factors associated with delinquency and decrease juvenile problem behavior.

3. ***Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG): FY2010 $54,000.00.***
The JABG grant program is authorized under the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 2002 as amended. As envisioned by Congress, the goal of the JABG program is to reduce juvenile offending through supporting accountability-based programs that focus on offenders and state and local juvenile justice systems. The basic premise underlying the JABG program is that both the juvenile offender and the juvenile justice system must be held accountable. In implementing the program, OJJDP seeks to reduce juvenile offending through both offender-focused and system-focused activities that promote accountability. For the juvenile justice system, strengthening the system requires an increased capacity to develop youth competence, to efficiently track juveniles through the system, and to provide enhanced options such as restitution, community service, victim-offender mediation, and other restorative justice sanctions that reinforce the mutual obligations of an accountability-based juvenile justice system.

Pre-allotted agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective program purpose areas in order to use their awards.
- Under the JABG FY2010, these agencies or categories are allotted the following amounts: DPS-JPU: $9,000.00; ***DYS-JPU: $9,000.00; DYS-JDU: $9,000.00; PDO: $9,000.00; OAG: $9,000.00; FCD: $9,000.00;***

4. Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) Grant: FY2010 $312,000.00
Awarded to all territories including CNMI for FY 08, the OJJDP Enforcing Underage Drinking Laws (EUDL) grant program are funds made available to supports and enhances efforts by states and territories to prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages to minors and the purchase and consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors. *(Minors are defined as individuals under 21 years of age.)* ***Innovative Programs: $100,000.00; Public Advertising: $12,000.00.***

Pre-allotted agencies mentioned below, must submit a complete application of how available funds will be used, including an implementation plan of how goals and objectives will help meet the predicted outcomes of their respective program purpose areas in order to use their awards.

Under EUDL FY2010, the pre-alloted agencies below are allotted the following amounts:
- ***Law Enforcement DPS-EUDL: $100,000.00;***
- ***Prosecution OAG-EUDL: $50,000.00;***
- ***Commerce ABTC-EUDL: $50,000.00;***

III. ***Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Assistance Formula Program: FY2010 $250,479***
Established in 1984, the VOCA, Office for Victims of Crime oversee diverse programs that benefit victims of crime. The OVC through VOCA grant program provides funding to support state and territory victim assistance and compensation programs, which are the lifeline services that help victims to heal. Funds made available through VOCA assistance program is intended for direct service providers of victims of crime only. VOCA funds can support trainings designed to educate criminal justice and allied professionals regarding the rights and needs of crime victims. Included in this category, funds under this program is designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide and other crime victims.

The available funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant review process and plan consistent with the project description outlined in the program applications and accompanying strategies for the aforementioned DOJ programs. Sub-grant applicants under OJJDP funds will be awarded by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) with the concurrence-approval of the Supervisory Council. Projects funded under these programs will be monitored and administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Note: The FY2010 STOP-VAWA Grant Program funding is not available at this time. A separate announcement will be published as soon as funds available.

All applications must be submitted to CJPA no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 8, 2010.

For Tinian and Rota Applications Only:
Complete and full applications submitted from Rota and Tinian will be accepted by fax following the deadline said above, including a "must" be submitted hardcopy via air waybill with the deadline said above stamped or recorded on the "executed on date and time" section of the air waybill. Incomplete application(s) send in by fax will not be accepted.

For more information and for interested applicants, please contact CJPA at 664-4550/4551/4553/4554/4556 or stop by the Office on Capitol Hill (Building #1314 or #1315) Also, the application format is available through the CJPA Web Site at www.cjpa.gov.mp. Please indicate and specify which grant and year you are applying for on the application. If necessary, please call the CJPA Office at 664-4550.

/s/ Ignacio Aguiningoc
Chairman, Supervisory Council

/s/ Mr. Jerome Ierome
Executive Director, CJPA

501133 Chalan Kanoa • Saipan, MP 96950 - Tel: (670) 664 4550-7 • Fax: (670) 664 4560 • Visit Us at: http://www.cjpa.gov.mp

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI: Bomb threat on Thai Airways plane was hoax

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The threatening note found in the restroom of a Thai Airways plane was a hoax, FBI officials said Wednesday. A passenger aboard Flight 794 scrawled the bomb threat in broken English on a mirror, but no arrest was made and the investigation continues, FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller said. There was no indication that a crew member was involved, she added. Making a phony threat against an airliner is a federal crime that carries a maximum sentence of five years in federal prison, Eimiller said.

Official: 2nd killed in flooding swamping Texas

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Authorities say flooding from the remnants of Tropical Storm Hermine has killed a second person who was swept away from his pickup truck. Johnson County Sheriff's Department Capt. Mike Gilbert says a 49-year-old man drowned Wednesday afternoon after being swept away from his truck on a road near a flooded creek in an area between Alvarado and Lillian. He says the man's body was found about 200 yards from his truck. The National Weather Service says at least one person died in a vehicle submerged by water from a swollen creek in Killeen, north of Austin. And authorities in Austin say they're searching for a woman whose black Lexus SUV was swept off a road by a swollen creek. Flooding has also swamped parts of northern Texas, including Arlington, west of Dallas.

Doctors see eye hazard in powerful laser pointers

NEW YORK (AP)—Doctors are warning about eye hazards from high-powered laser pointers that can be bought online. Exhibit A is a 15-year-old Swiss boy who damaged his vision during a homemade light show. The teen bought a pointer that was 30 times as powerful as the U.S. limit allows. Doctors report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine that the boy was playing with the pointer in front of a mirror to create a light show. He accidentally zapped his eyes several times. Four months later, his vision was still impaired.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

East Timor deputy PM quits amid spat with boss

DILI, East Timor (AP)—One of East Timor's deputy prime ministers said he has resigned after Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao publicly called him a "liar" for his outspoken critiques of the government's failure to tackle corruption and improve people's lives. The abrupt departure of Mario Viejas Carrascalao, who assumed the post 18 months ago, dealt another blow to the young country's political stability. One analyst said it could even prompt the collapse of the ruling coalition. Carrascalao announced his resignation Wednesday in a column in the national newspaper Tempo Semanal in which he accused Gusmao's government of failing to stand up to corruption and nepotism, even as the problems become more sophisticated and entrenched.

China boat captain could stand trial for collision

TOKYO (AP)—The captain of the Chinese fishing boat that collided with Japanese patrol vessels near disputed islands could stand trial in the latest territorial spat between the neighbors, officials said Thursday. That likelihood increased as the Japanese coast guard handed over 41-year-old captain Zhan Zixiong to prosecutors for further investigation to decide whether to officially charge him in the case, Japan Coast Guard spokesman Masahiro Ichijo said. The captain has been in custody since his arrest Wednesday, after his ship collided with two Japanese patrol boats near a disputed chain of uninhabited islands in the East China Sea. No one was injured, and the two Japanese vessels sustained minor damage.

4th US missile strike in 24 hrs in Pakistan

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan (AP)—A suspected American missile strike killed five alleged militants in northwestern Pakistan early Thursday, an intelligence official said, the fourth attack in 24 hours as the U.S. steps up the tactic to keep al-Qaida and its allies under pressure. The barrage against houses and a vehicle in the mountains close to the Afghan border was one of the most intense since the attacks were stepped up more than two years ago. Most are believed to be fired from unmanned, remote-controlled planes that can hover for hours above the area.

Dynasty speculation on NKorea founding day

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea celebrated its 62nd anniversary Thursday with odes to supreme leader Kim Jong Il, amid uncertainty over whether a rare political meeting believed aimed at promoting his son as successor had begun.

State media had reported Monday that Workers' Party delegates were gathering in Pyongyang to elect new party leaders in what would be North Korea's first major political conference in 30 years. By Thursday morning, however, there was still no word on whether the meeting—slated to take place in "early September"—was taking place.

Analysts believe Kim will use the conference to give his third and youngest son, Kim Jong Un, a key party position as part of the movement to extend the Kim dynasty into a third generation.

Kim Jong Il himself took over leadership after his father, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, died of heart failure in 1994—a handover that was communism's first hereditary transfer of power.

North Korea watchers say the meeting may have been postponed because of Kim Jong Il's deteriorating health and recent devastating flooding.

"It's because of Kim Jong Il's health. There is no other reason," said Ha Tae-keung, chief of Open Radio for North Korea, a Seoul-based station specializing in North Korea affairs, citing unidentified sources in Pyongyang.

South Korea imposes independent sanctions on Iran

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea said it will ban many financial dealings with Iran and impose other penalties as part of a U.S.-led campaign to enforce sanctions against the country over its disputed nuclear enrichment program.

The measures announced Wednesday by Seoul add to new, unilateral sanctions imposed by the U.S., Europe and others to pressure Iran to return to negotiations on its nuclear program, which Tehran insists is peaceful but critics say is a quest to develop atomic weapons that could spark a Middle East arms race.

Seoul targeted 102 entities with the sanctions, including the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps and the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines plus 24 individuals , Foreign Ministry spokesman Kim Young-sun said Wednesday.

The measures prohibit foreign exchange transactions with the targets of the measures except with special authorization, and they also halt existing banking relations and prohibit the opening of new branches or representative offices in South Korea, Kim said. The targeted individuals are also banned from entering South Korea, Kim said.

South Korea will also heavily penalize the Seoul branch of Bank Mellat, one of the 15 targeted Iranian banks, for violating laws on foreign exchange transactions, a government statement said, without elaborating.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

3rd Floor, Joeten Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
CUC-RFP-10-044

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2010

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The following information must be included in the audit proposals:

1) Title Page
a) RFP Subject
b) Name of Firm
c) Local Address
d) Telephone Numbers
e) Name of Contact Persons
f) Submission Date

2) Transmittal Letter
a) A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period stipulated
b) State all inclusive fees for which the audit will be performed.

3) Firm's Profile
a) Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel professional/educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listing.
b) The firm shall make an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.

The date of contract award will be no later than September 30, 2010. Audit work shall be commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2011.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-10-044, Financial & Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 30, 2010" to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (CHST), local time, on September 14, 2010.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Approach to Project (25 maximum points)
2. Qualification of the Principal and Proposed Staff (25 maximum points)
3. Experience on Similar Projects (25 maximum points)
4. Time to Complete the Project (20 maximum points)
5. Cost (5 maximum points)

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, S;aipan, MP 96950; Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.net; and Manny B. Sablan, CUC Procurement & Supply Manager at email address msablan@cucgov.net.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC..

/s/ ANTONION S. MUNA
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
NMHC RFP 2010-010

HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) INSPECTIONS FOR THE FOUR (4) HOUSING UNITS IN GARAPAN, ANNEX II

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman, Ms. Marcie M. Tomokane, is soliciting Proposals from interested, qualified firms/individuals to perform **HOUSING QUALITY STANDARDS (HQS) INSPECTIONS FOR THE FOUR (4) HOUSING UNITS IN GARAPAN, ANNEX II,** Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This (HQS) Inspection Services is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under Public Indian Housing – Housing Choice Voucher Admin Funds.

Local Business Preference as amended by Public Law 15-95 and further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available to local proposers in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal Law granting the funding for this project.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations dated May 24, 2001. Proposals procedures shall be in full compliance with section 4-103 of the regulations.

The Scope of Work (SOW) will be available on or after **Tuesday, September 7, 2010**, at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), Monday through Friday except on legal holiday. No fees required in obtaining the proposal package.

Pre-Proposal Conference is schedule on **Tuesday, September 14, 2010, at 10:00 a.m.** at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's Office Conference Room. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Ms. Zerlyn A. Taimanao, Program & Housing Manager, NMHC, Saipan, or fax to (670) 234-9021 no later than **Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 4:30 p.m.,** local time.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach, with details how the work will be accomplished, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (names and experience) not to exceed twelve (12) pages. Note that firm or individual that submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a sub-consultant on another proposal. However, only sub-consultant may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposal will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications - (30 pts.): Brief history of the firm or individual.
2. Experience of the Firm or Individual – (30 pts.): Demonstrate experience of the firm or individual, including past experience in conducting (HQS) inspections.
3. Quality of Technical proposal – (20 pts.): Thoroughness of actual submission and methodology.
4. Cost of Services – (20 pts.): The proposer's cost should be structure to allow for a basic "group" rate and a "single inspection" rate.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **NMHC RFP 2010-010: Housing Quality Standards (HQS) Inspections for the Four (4) Housing Units in Garapan, Annex II.** For proposal within the CNMI, one (1) signed original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **Wednesday, September 22, 2010**. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) workings for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to submit proposal must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., local time, **September 22, 2010**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) signed original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be marked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal services of a foreign country no later than **September 22, 2010** AND must be received no later than **October 5, 2010**. However, if no Notice of Intent to Propose were received from proposers outside of the CNMI, the proposals will be opened at 10:30 a.m., local time, **September 22, 2010**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms or individuals regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

A contract shall be negotiated with the highest qualified firm or individual at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable can not be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm or individual, then additional firms or individual maybe selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reason price is agreed upon;

The successful proposer(s) will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with CNMI Procurement and Supply Regulations Section 3-301.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charge to the proposer(s) awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and to waive any imperfections in any Proposal in the best interest of the Government. All Proposals shall become the property of the Government.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Board Chairwoman & Expenditure Authority

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

World

Fidel Castro says Cuban model doesn't work

HAVANA (AP)—Fidel Castro told a visiting American journalist that Cuba's communist economic model doesn't work, a rare comment on domestic affairs from a man who has conspicuously steered clear of local issues since stepping down four years ago.

The fact that things are not working efficiently on this cash-strapped Caribbean island is hardly news. Fidel's brother Raul, the country's president, has said the same thing repeatedly. But the blunt assessment by the father of Cuba's 1959 revolution is sure to raise eyebrows.

Jeffrey Goldberg, a national correspondent for *The Atlantic* magazine, asked if Cuba's economic system was still worth exporting to other countries, and Castro replied: "The Cuban model doesn't even work for us anymore," Goldberg wrote Wednesday in a post on his Atlantic blog.

He said Castro made the comment casually over lunch following a long talk about the Middle East, and did not elaborate. The Cuban government had no immediate comment on Goldberg's account.

Julia Sweig, a Cuba expert at the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations who accompanied Goldberg on the trip, confirmed the Cuban leader's comment. She told The Associated Press she took the remark to be in line with Raul Castro's call for gradual but widespread reform.

Since stepping down from power in 2006, the ex-president has focused almost entirely on international affairs and said very little about Cuba and its politics, perhaps to limit the perception he is stepping on his brother's toes.

AP

Cuba's leader Fidel Castro delivers a speech to students outside Havana's University in Havana, Cuba, Friday, Sept. 3, 2010.

Goldberg, who traveled to Cuba at Castro's invitation last week to discuss a recent *Atlantic* article he wrote about Iran's nuclear program, also reported on Tuesday that Castro questioned his own actions during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, including his recommendation to Soviet leaders that they use nuclear weapons against the United States.

Even after the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba has clung to its communist system.

The state controls well over 90 percent of the economy, paying workers salaries of about $20 a month in return for free health care and education, and nearly free transportation and housing. At least a portion of every citizen's food needs are sold to them through ration books at heavily subsidized prices.

European pressure mounts on Iran over stoning case

BRUSSELS (AP)—European Union nations and the continent's biggest human rights organization slammed Iran on Wednesday for its plan to stone a woman convicted of adultery, while Iran's ambassador to the Vatican said there is "hope" the punishment could be eased upon review by Iranian authorities.

The plight of Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani, a 43-year-old mother of two, has cast a harsh light on Iran's version of Islamic justice and caused a global outcry. Iran says it has put the stoning on hold for now but has also indicated Ashtiani could be hanged for her conviction of playing a role in her husband's 2005 murder.

In an interview broadcast on Italian state TV Wednesday, Tehran's envoy to the Holy See gave the strongest indication yet that Iran may set aside the death penalty—or at least the stoning—in Ashtiani's case.

He was asked what response he could give to the many appeals from around the world to stop the stoning, including concern from the Vatican.

Ambassador Ali Akbar Naseri stressed that Islamic law was "inspired by clemency and forgiveness." Asked if that meant there was some hope Ashtiani could receive clemency, he replied that "one hopes for some easing of the punishment."

But he insisted that Iranian judicial authorities were "fully independent" and would not be swayed by "threats."

Ashtiani "after having had illicit relations with numerous men, killed, in a savage way, her husband, with the complicity of one of these" men, the ambassador said.

"Her guilt has been demonstrated, but the judicial authorities, before issuing the definitive sentence, are re-examining the case with utmost care and attention, and one hopes for an easing of the punishment," he said with a slight smile and without elaborating.

His comments also appeared to be a positive response to the Vatican's hint that it would try behind-the-scenes diplomacy to spare Ashtiani's life.

The European Union Parliament in Strasbourg, France, passed a resolution Wednesday condemning Tehran, a move that comes on the heels of EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso calling stoning "barbaric." The vote passed by a huge 658-to-1 margin with 22 abstentions. The vote against was an error and was to be amended in the parliamentary records later.

Sweden summoned Iran's ambassador to protest the sentence.

"It is important that we are not passive in a case that—except for her own destiny—has become a symbol for the repression in Iran," Sweden's Foreign Minister Carl Bildt said. "We are against the death penalty in all cases, but stoning is a specifically vile form of the death penalty."

German Foreign Minister Guido Westerwelle released a statement saying he is "deeply worried for Ms. Ashtiani's life."

"Iran has to respect human rights, especially because it committed to do so under international law," Westerwelle said. It is "not a question of religion, but a question of fundamental human dignity."

The sentiments were echoed by the 47-nation Council of Europe, the continent's biggest human rights organization. It called on the Islamic republic's parliamentary speaker, Ali Larijani, to do his utmost to fully repeal the sentence.

AP

Demonstrators hold portraits of Iranian woman Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani during a protest in front of the Iran embassy in Rome, Thursday, Sept. 2, 2010.

Senegal prostitutes look forward to Ramadan's end

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—Wearing white to symbolize purity, worshippers throughout this African capital gathered to pray on one of the final nights of Ramadan. To purify the soul and purge sin, they hadn't eaten all day and refrained from drinking, smoking and having sex—which during the holy month is only allowed among spouses at night.

Ramadan is bad news for the sex workers on the streets of Senegal, a country where 94 percent of the population is Muslim and prostitution is legal.

"It's a rough month," said 31-year-old Fatou Diop, who had taken a position on a piece of pavement just beyond the flashing lights of a nightclub in downtown Dakar. Her miniskirt was so short it barely reached beyond the top of her thighs.

"There are fewer clients during Ramadan—and we earn less. You can work for three days and not make anything," she said.

Like many prostitutes in Dakar, Diop moved to the capital from the city's poor outskirts. She works to support her family, including her young son.

In the same unlit alleyway, Awa Ndiaye was strutting in a dress as tight as cellophane. She said her clients dwindled from 10 per night to three. The 24-year-old native of Casamance, a region in the south of Senegal, said it's difficult to make enough to live. She normally earns $50 per client, but from that amount she must bribe the local police to keep from being harassed or put in jail.

"I have to support my family on what's left after I pay them," she said. "Now, there's no work."

Even though prostitution is legal, it is still taboo. If the police harass prostitutes—registered or no—and threaten to take them to jail, they often have no recourse but to pay a bribe.

Ndiaye is one of the registered, or legal, sex workers who are required to report to a health clinic for HIV and sexually transmitted disease testing every two weeks or risk losing their health card. Other women work clandestinely.

Djiby Sow coordinates health programs at Africa Consultants International and works with local groups in Dakar that offer health services and counseling to prostitutes.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mexican mayor killed, massacre suspects arrested

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Hooded gunmen killed the mayor of a small town in the northern Mexico state of San Luis Potosi on Wednesday, and prosecutors announced the arrest of seven suspects in the massacre of 72 migrants in August. President Felipe Calderon's office issued a statement saying he "energetically condemned" the slaying of the mayor of El Naranjo—the third mayor to be killed in Mexico in less than a month. Amid the violence, U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that Mexico is "looking more and more like Colombia looked 20 years ago, where the narco-traffickers control certain parts of the country, not significant parts." Her comments raised hackles in Mexico.

Pessimistic about peace, Israelis greet new year

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israelis usher in the Jewish new year, or Rosh Hashana, at sundown Wednesday with a widespread sense of pessimism that a new round of U.S.-sponsored Mideast talks can achieve peace. President Barack Obama wants a deal within a year, but Israelis are deeply skeptical after decades of failed efforts. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledged the widespread doubts. "There are many obstacles, many skeptics, and many reasons for skepticism," he said in a holiday address. He called the talks "an important step in an attempt to reach" peace, but said it "is an attempt because there is no certainty of success."

Britain likely to tighten US-UK extradition law

LONDON (AP)—Britain is likely to overhaul its extradition laws amid concerns the United States is able to fly suspects out of the U.K. with little proof they have committed a crime, a senior government minister said Wednesday. A review of current laws would propose changes and consider whether the present rules are "unbalanced" in favor of the U.S. and against British citizens, Home Secretary Theresa May said in a statement to Parliament. It follows worries over high profile extradition cases including hacker Gary McKinnon, who is wanted in the U.S. for allegedly breaking into American military computers, and retiree Christopher Tappin, accused of plotting to sell missile components to Iran.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Tended lawn's wedding proposal works for Mich. man

CHIPPEWA TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—Extra water, some fertilizer and a lot of patience was all one Michigan lawn service owner needed to convince his lady to say "I do." Tommy Dafoe tells the Morning Sun of Mount Pleasant that he spelled out "Will U Marry Me" with fertilizer a few weeks ago in the lawn of the home he shares with girlfriend in Chippewa Township, about 120 miles northwest of Detroit. The 24-year-old Dafoe watered his words more frequently and the fertilizer helped the grass grow greener. When the grass grew long enough, he used a mower to carefully cut around the letters. Then on Friday, Dafoe asked 25-year-old Kristi Volz how the lawn looked—and got down on one knee. Volz said yes, and the couple is planning an August wedding.

Bobcat climbing power pole starts 5-acre fire

PIRU, Calif. (AP)—A bobcat climbing a power pole got electrocuted and sparked a five-acre brush fire in California's Ventura County. County fire Capt. Dan Preston told the Ventura County Star that the bobcat was apparently chasing an owl or another bird when it touched the power lines, caught fire and fell to the ground in a rural area near Piru. The fire was reported at 3:36 a.m. Monday atop Torrey Peak. More than 40 firefighters extinguished the blaze about five hours later. No homes were threatened and no one was hurt. The bobcat's charred body was found beneath the power lines.

A class to die for: Zombies 101 at U. Baltimore

BALTIMORE (AP)—Call it Zombies 101. The University of Baltimore is offering a new class on the undead. The course is being taught by Arnold Blumberg, the author of a book on zombie movies, "Zombiemania," and the curator of Geppi's Entertainment Museum, which focuses on American pop culture. Students taking English 333 will watch 16 classic zombie films and read zombie comics. As an alternative to a final research paper they may write scripts or draw storyboards for their ideal zombie flicks. The university isn't the first to have a class on the undead. Columbia College in Chicago has offered a course on Zombies in popular media for years, and at Simpson College in Iowa students spent the spring semester writing a book on "The History of the Great Zombie War."

'Get Money' haircut identifies Seattle suspect

SEATTLE (AP)—A woman who was robbed of $310 while sitting at a Seattle traffic light gave police a detailed description of the man who stuck a gun in her open window. He had "GET MONEY" shaved into the hair on one side of his head. He also had "GET" tattooed on his right hand and "MONEY" on his left hand. The Seattle pi.com reports a detective searched records using the tattoo information and identified a suspect who was later pulled over by a patrol officer in the Lake City neighborhood. His "GET MONEY" haircut and tattoos matched, and 18-year-old Larry Shawn Taylor was identified by the victim in the Aug. 23 robbery. Now, he's held in the King County Jail for investigation of robbery.

Police arrest man who scaled San Francisco tower

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—San Francisco police have arrested a man who scaled the exterior of a 58-story downtown skyscraper and unfurled an American flag at the top. Police tell KCBS Radio that the man is veteran skyscraper climber Dan Goodwin. The 54-year-old Lake Tahoe resident's other climbing credits include Chicago's Sears Tower. Goodwin used suction cups but no ropes to scale Millennium Tower, a 645-foot residential building overlooking San Francisco Bay. Police say he ignored orders to stop climbing. The San Francisco Fire Department says Goodwin was too high to reach by the time firefighters got to the building. Goodwin reached the top just before 5:30 p.m. Monday, about three hours after he began. He affixed an American flag to the building before surrendering to waiting authorities.

Ky. farmer claims some corn popped on the stalk

ELIZABETHTOWN, Ky. (AP)—A Hardin County farmer said that some ears among his feed corn rows popped on the stalk in a phenomenon that agricultural experts believe is associated with irregular rainfall and high heat. Star Mills farmer Patrick Preston sent a photo of the burst kernels that look like partially popped popcorn to the University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service. Hardin County Extension agent Doug Shepherd told The News Enterprise he's never seen popped kernels before. Shepherd said the outer coat of a kernel can explode from heat after the ears are pollinated. Temperatures in corn fields can be 10 degrees higher than in the surrounding area as the plants are producing energy. Shepherd predicts corn yields will fall below normal this year because of hot weather and spotty rain.

Philly cyclists bare all to promote cleaner air

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hundreds of naked and partially nude cyclists have pedaled their way through Philadelphia to promote bicycling awareness and cleaner air.

Some of the buff bikers wore body paint, some were in bathing suits and some were completely naked.

This was the second year for the Philly Naked Bike Ride. Similar rides have taken place in more than 70 cities worldwide since 2004.

The bicyclists pedaled several miles through the city on Sunday evening.

Cyclist make their way through the streets of center city Philadelphia during a naked bike ride on Sunday Sept. 5, 2010. AP

Nevada candidate touts speedy fix to budget crisis

CARSON CITY, Nev. (AP)—One Nevada gubernatorial hopeful sees a speedy fix to Nevada's budget crisis. Nonpartisan candidate Eugene "Gino" DiSimone believes people would pay for the privilege to drive up to 90 mph on designated highways—and fill the state's depleted coffers.

DiSimone calls his idea the "free limit plan." He estimates the plan would bring in $1 billion a year.

First, vehicles would have to pass a safety inspection. Then vehicle information would be loaded into a database, and motorists would purchase a transponder.

After setting up an account, anyone in a hurry could dial in, and for $25 charged to a credit card, be free to speed for 24 hours.

The Nevada Highway Patrol isn't keen on the idea, saying it would lead to increased injuries and traffic deaths.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP10-REV-117

SUBMISSION: TUESDAY, OCT. 05, 2010 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE RENTAL ON SAIPAN CNMI FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE/DIVISION OF REVENUE AND TAXATION"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENT AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIM

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
Director, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements
AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport Restroom Repairs and Water Pump Improvements, AIP Nos. 3-69-0002-62/65/66 (Project No. CPA-SA-002-09), Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 1, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
for the
Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements
AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69 (Project No. CPA-SA-011-09)

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management services for the Saipan International Airport ARFF Training Facility Improvements Project, AIP No. 3-69-0002-68/69, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

A. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;

B. Specialized experience and technical competence in the type of work required and previous experience with projects similar in scope;

C. Key personnel's professional qualifications, experience and availability for the proposed services; their reputation and professional integrity and competence; and their knowledge of FAA regulations, policies and procedures;

D. Quality of projects previously undertaken and capability to complete projects without having major cost escalations or overruns;

E. Past performance on contracts including cost control, quality of work and current workload and demonstrated ability to meet schedules and deadlines;

F. Firms must have a valid CNMI Business License and the ability to perform the construction management activities in the CNMI.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications for each service offered no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 8, 2010.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: August 27, 2010

Science & Technology

Google search accelerates with 'instant' results

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Google Inc. stepped on its Internet search accelerator Wednesday by adding a feature that displays results as soon as people begin typing their requests.

The change, called "Google Instant," is the closest the 12-year-old company has come yet to realizing its founders' ambition to build a search engine that reads its users' minds.

The achievement wasn't lost on Google co-founder Sergey Brin, who jokingly told reporters that the company's lightning-quick computers are morphing into the "other third" of people's brains.

"I think it's a little bit of a new dawn in computing," Brin said Wednesday.

The shift means Google users will begin to see an ever-evolving set of search results appearing on their computer screens, potentially changing with each additional character typed. That means a satisfactory set of results could take just one keystroke. As an example, a person who types "w" in Google's search box could see the weather results in the same area as where the request was entered.

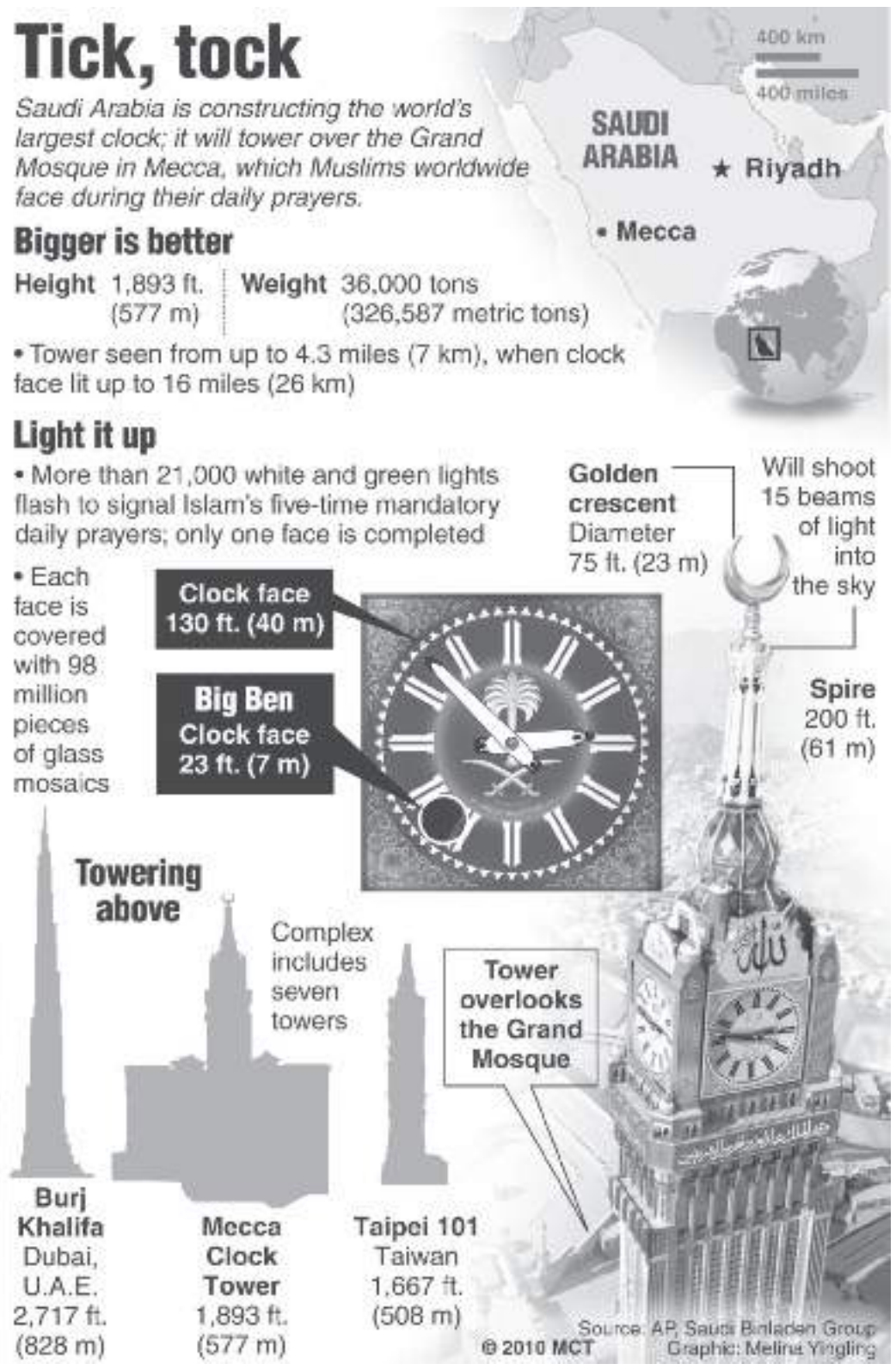
Google will also try to predict what a person really wants by filling out the anticipated search terms in gray letters. Below that, in a drop-down box, Google will still offer other suggested search requests, as the site has been offering for the past two years.

The feature will be gradually rolled out throughout the U.S. this week and will be offered in other parts of the world later this year. It's designed to work on the latest versions of the major Web browsers.

The instant results only will be displayed on Google's standard website, which features little more than its logo and a search box. They won't be shown to users making requests on individually designed "iGoogle" pages that are usually already covered with different decorations and programs plugged into other online services. People who prefer Google's basic website and don't want to see instant results can turn them off by clicking on a link next to the search box.

To minimize the chances of offending people or inadvertently exposing children to inappropriate material, Google has programmed the instant results to block websites deemed to be pornographic, violent or hateful. That restriction may trigger complaints that Google is stifling freedom of expression or unfairly screening out some sites that were improperly blacklisted.

This screen shot shows Google Inc.'s Instant Search, introduced Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010. Google is accelerating its search engine by displaying the results as soon as users begin to type in their requests. AP


Tick, tock
Saudi Arabia is constructing the world's largest clock; it will tower over the Grand Mosque in Mecca, which Muslims worldwide face during their daily prayers.
Bigger is better
Height 1,893 ft. (577 m)
Weight 36,000 tons (326,587 metric tons)
• Tower seen from up to 4.3 miles (7 km), when clock face lit up to 16 miles (26 km)
Light it up
• More than 21,000 white and green lights flash to signal Islam's five-time mandatory daily prayers; only one face is completed
• Each face is covered with 98 million pieces of glass mosaics
Clock face 130 ft. (40 m)
Big Ben Clock face 23 ft. (7 m)
Towering above
Complex includes seven towers
Tower overlooks the Grand Mosque
Burj Khalifa Dubai, U.A.E. 2,717 ft. (828 m)
Mecca Clock Tower 1,893 ft. (577 m)
Taipei 101 Taiwan 1,667 ft. (508 m)
400 km
400 miles
SAUDI ARABIA
Riyadh
Mecca
Golden crescent Diameter 75 ft. (23 m)
Will shoot 15 beams of light into the sky
Spire 200 ft. (61 m)
Source: AP, Saudi Binladen Group
© 2010 MCT
Graphic: Melina Yingling

Software keeps parents in loop of child's Web activities

By NOAH MATTHEWS
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

It's not a bad idea to move your child's PC out of his bedroom and place it where you can glance at the monitor occasionally. It's also a good idea to install software on your child's PC that monitors his or her use when you can't be around.

McAfee Family Protection, a Windows program, will act like a very inexpensive Internet nanny. After a quick and easy installation, you can tailor the content you want your child to see. You can limit access to appropriate videos on YouTube, for example, and choose one of 35 keywords that will restrict where they can surf and how long they are allowed to be online before the screen goes blank.

You can monitor their use of instant messaging, record what they're saying to other users on Facebook and even receive e-mail or a text messages when they stray.

But it's not all about restrictions. As your child grows older, you can loosen things up a bit by allowing age-appropriate surfing.

In my tests, I couldn't figure out how to disable the program, but that doesn't mean a hacker in your house couldn't figure out how to do it. The antidote to that is to move your child's PC to a place where you can see the monitor. Chances are good that your household hacker needs more supervision anyway.

McAfee Family Protection will run on Windows 7, Vista and XP. To order, send $25, plus $6 for shipping, to WashingtonCD, PO Box 351531, Los Angeles, CA 90035, or online at www.washingtoncd.net.

It might be time to say goodbye to Outlook

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I've grown comfortable with the look and feel of Microsoft's Outlook Express e-mail program on my nine-year-old Windows XP computer. But my new Windows 7 PC doesn't have it, and I've got 700 e-mails accumulated over nine years that I can't read. What should I do?—Ross Couchman, Ottawa

ANSWER: Your best alternative is to switch e-mail programs, although you can take your old e-mail with you.

Microsoft no longer provides Outlook Express, and has switched to Windows Live Mail. But by copying your Outlook Express e-mail to a flash drive, then moving the flash drive to your new PC, you can import your Outlook Express e-mail into Windows Live Mail.

A less desirable alternative is to download an old copy of Outlook Express, which is still available for free at http://tinyurl.com/6c2nm. However, Outlook Express comes as part of Internet Explorer 6, a Web browser that is way out of date.

Windows Live Mail is not included in Windows 7, but you can download it free (http://tinyurl.com/28fdybz/) as part of a package called Windows Live Essentials.

For directions on how to back-up Outlook Express to a flash drive, see http://tinyurl.com/qw5v4/. Learn how to import Outlook Express e-mail from the flash drive to Windows Live Mail at http://tinyurl.com/yl52qo2/.

■■■

Q: I recently bought an iMac computer, and would like to transfer my e-mail from the Outlook Express 2003 program to the e-mail program that comes with the iMac. How do I do it?—Bill Schuessler, Wayzata, Minn.

A: You can find instructions for converting e-mail files from Microsoft Outlook Express format to Macintosh format at http://tinyurl.com/28a83tq/.

Before following the directions, download a free PC program called DbxConv (http://tinyurl.com/26u9p86) that performs the file conversion.

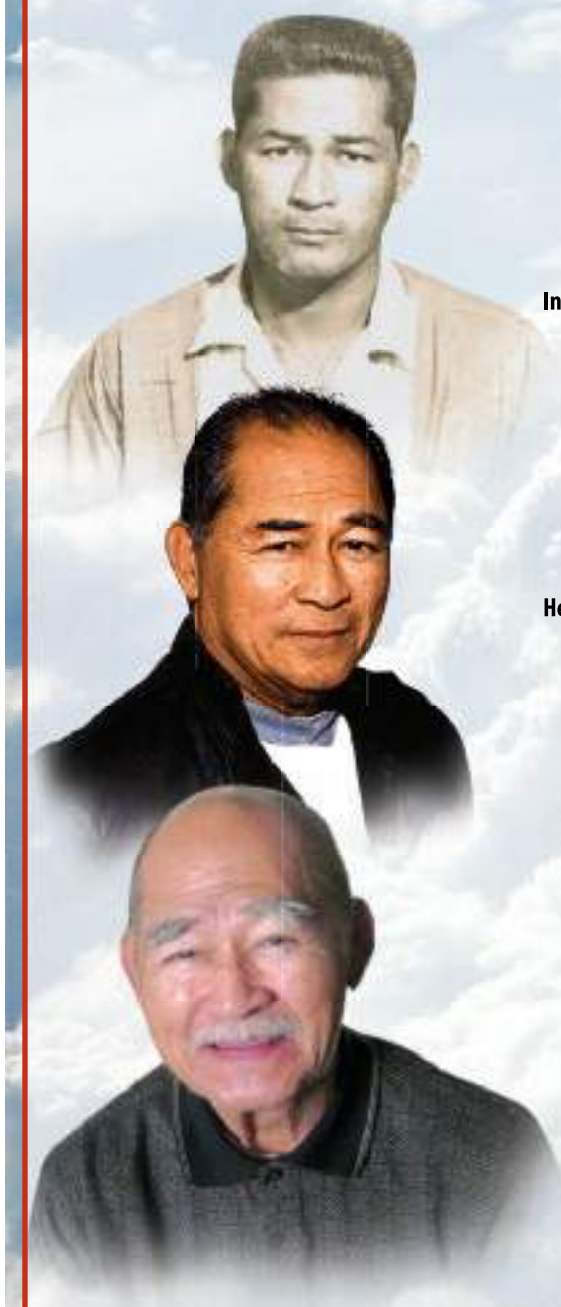
■■■

Q: I have a Dell Dimension 9100 PC that runs Windows 7, but it continually freezes and gives me the message "Program not responding. Do you want to wait or cancel program?" What can I do?—George Lyall, Pinecrest By The Sea, Fla.

A: It sounds as if your PC doesn't have enough random-access memory (RAM). Depending on when you bought your PC, which was introduced in 2005, you may have as little as 1 gigabyte of RAM, which is barely enough for Windows 7 to run properly.

Try adding a gigabyte or two of RAM (your model can use up to 4 gigabytes) at a cost of $25 to $40 per gigabyte. See http://tinyurl.com/2bwzloq/ or http://tinyurl.com/28z7ck3.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. *Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; e-mail: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*



IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

Jose Santos Palacios

March 08, 1933 – August 17, 2010

Was called by our Heavenly Father on August 17, 2010 in Modesto California at the age of 77 years old.

In his new Life he now joins his:
Father: Jose San Miguel Palacios
Mother: Maria Torres Santos Palacios
Paternal Grand Parents: Joaquin Fausto Palacios, Isabel San Miguel Palacios
Maternal Grand Parents: Mariano T. DL Santos, Prudenciana T. DL Santos
Brothers: Jesus S. Palacios, Vicente S. Palacios, Joaquin S. Palacios
Sisters: Potenciana S. Palacios, Isabel (BECK) Palacios Cabrera, Delores (LING) Palacios Curley
Brother-in-law: Joaquin Samuel Tenorio Cabrera

He will be dearly missed by his
1st Wife: Ms. Rosa Perez
Children & Spouses: Joseph D. & Anne N. Palacios (Christopher, Jennifer, Catherine, Melani, Josephine & Chelsea); Joaquin P. & Dorothy J. Palacios (Zachary, Kenneth, Jessica, Paul & Alex-BOY-BOY); William & Ela Palacios (Deny & Tommy); Rosalind & Buddy Breaux (Nichole); Elizabeth Palacios (Frances, Henry & Ricardo); June P & Eddie Aguon (Josita, Joseph Brian & Jocelyn); Frances P. & Christopher Ibanez (Johnathon & Kristin); Anthony & Linda Palacios (Anthony, Ashley, Natasha, Joshua, Sean, Kelani, Janice & Justin); Joanna Palacios (Stephanie, Nancy, Joshua & Joseph)
2nd Wife: Ms. Juanita Pangelinan Cruz
Children: Cynthia Concepcion, Melissa Siruelo, Ricardo F. Siruelo Jr. and grand children.
Brother/Spouse: Francisco (DINO) Santos & Fermina Castro Palacios (Dino/Jennifer, Elizabeth/Larry, Julie/Kelvin, †Francisco, Jennifer/Franklin & Chavo/Niona)
Sisters/Spouses: Maria Carmen Palacios & Antonio Camacho Muna (Frankie/Rosie, Tina Marie/Frank, Anthony/Trinie, Kenneth/Maria, Nick/Esther, Joycelyn/Frank, Dwayne, Joseph (JJ)/Linda, Ly'ana & Joseph Jr.); Remedio Palacios & Hasmid Haro (Lillian/Keith, Hasmid Jr./Michelle, Alfred/Sophia & Jose/Valarie)
Brother-in-law: Gary Curley (Mark Henry/Mary, Patrick/Mari, Danny, Ricky, Tina/Jeff & Chuck/Cindy)
Children of the late †Isabel Palacios/Joaquin Samuel Tenorio Cabrera (Ernestina/Edward, Emanuel/Rose, Joaquin/Myra, Maria Rosa/David, Ramon/Lina, Leo/Frank, Joseph, Tracy/Tony, Elizabeth/Vidal, Doris/Tony, Glen/Gina & Melissa/Andy)
Close and Special Cousins: Jesus Palacios Deleon Guerrero (Guam), Elena Deleon Guerrero Stein (Texas), Violeta Asuncion (Modesto California) and Linda Palacios (Texas)
Close Friends: Joe Pangelinan Cruz (Sacramento California), Johnny Ogo & family (Stockton California)

†Jose is additionally survived by his 51 Great Grand children and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

The remains of the late **†Jose Santos Palacios** will arrive on Wednesday, September 08, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. and will be brought down to his brother/sister-in-law Francisco (DINO) Santos & Fermina Castro Palacios residence in Chalan Kanoa Dist. #1 Margarita Street followed by the rosary.

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00p.m.

On the final day, Saturday, September 11, 2010 Memorial Mass will be celebrated at 11:00a.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral. Interment will follow at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Lunch will be served immediately after at the residence of his brother/sister-in-law Francisco (DINO) Santos & Fermina Castro Palacios.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Ghilisou.

The Family

Celebrating One Year of Eternal Life

A Year Ago, God called

Victoria Santos Borja Aguon

to her eternal home in heaven. We gather as family, friends, and relatives to pray for this wonderful and loving person. She will live on forever through Us all who cared and loved her as we remember her in our prayers.

And so, we the family respectfully begin the nine days of daily Masses scheduled 6:00 a.m., at Kristo Rai Church beginning Friday, September 3, 2010 through Saturday, September 11, 2010.

We are sincerely grateful for your presence and support.

Thank You – Si Yu'us Ma'ase

From The Children & Family

Life & Style

CNN names Piers Morgan as Larry King's replacement

NEW YORK (AP)—British tabloid veteran Piers Morgan, hired by CNN to start as Larry King's replacement as a prime-time interviewer in January, promised that he "came here to win."

CNN nailed down the final piece of its prime-time makeover on Wednesday, after months where it was clear the "America's Got Talent" panelist was its top choice. King, who announced in June he was leaving "Larry King Live," will have his final show on Dec. 16.

Negotiations dragged while CNN worked out a deal that allows Morgan to continue on "America's Got Talent" and his British talk show, "Piers Morgan's Life Stories," on Britain's ITV.

"I didn't come here to lose," he said. "I have always spent my life in ferocious ratings or circulation wars. It's what gets me going in the morning, and I want to combine brilliant interviews with great ratings."

That would be fine with CNN; King was once cable TV news' top gun but now runs third in his 9 p.m. ET time slot. Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity has averaged 2.27 million viewers this year at that hour, MSNBC's Rachel Maddow has 931,000 viewers and King averages 702,000, according to the Nielsen Co.

Another prime-time CNN show with former New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and columnist Kathleen Parker is starting on Oct. 4. CNN has struggled in prime-time with news viewers more interested in opinionated shows on Fox and MSNBC.

Morgan said following King is "like replacing Frank Sinatra at the Sands." He said he considered it the biggest interviewer job in the world, and one that he's long had his eye on.

CNN U.S. President Jon Klein said Morgan had a "persistent agent." The agent, John Ferriter, e-mailed Klein with links to some of Morgan's interviews earlier this year, before it was known CNN was considering replacements for King. Klein said he "was just blown away by his talent, his ability to hone in on facets of people's personalities you never knew were there."

Morgan will be based in New York and also do work in Los Angeles and London. He'll do a mixture of celebrity and news interviews and said he looks forward to contributing on nights when news is breaking. Some of his shows will be live and some, particularly when "America's Got Talent" is on the air in the summer, will be taped.

AP

Piers Morgan arrives for the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards Sunday, Aug. 29, 2010, in Los Angeles.

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NOW SHOWING

Residents Evil: Afterlife

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Mon through Thurs		4:30	7:30	

Mila Jovovich, Ali Larter
Action, Horror • Rated R

Synopsis

Milla Jovovich returns in this fourth entry of the Resident Evil franchise. The zombie actioner is poised to take place in Hong Kong, with Paul W.S. Anderson returning to pen the script and direct.

Machete

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:40
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:40
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon through Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Danny Trejo, Robert DeNiro
Action • Rated R

Synopsis

Robert Rodriguez makes good on expanding his Grindhouse fake trailer Machete into a feature film with this Overnight Productions picture. Danny Trejo will once again star as the knife-wielding vigilante who nearly dies in an assassination conspiracy, only to return later on and seek vengeance against those who wronged him. Robert De Niro, Lindsay Lohan, Jessica Alba, Steven Seagal, Don Johnson, and Jeff Fahey fill out the supporting cast.

Going The Distance

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Mon through Thurs		4:25	7:25	

Drew Barrymore, Justin Long
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

Drew Barrymore and Justin Long star as a couple who find their long-distance relationship wearing thin in this romantic comedy from director Nanette Burnstein. Geoff LaTulippe provides the screenplay for the New Line production.

The Last Exorcism

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:50
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:50
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon through Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Patrick Fabian, Ashley Bell
Horror • Rated PG 13

Vampires Suck

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:45
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:45
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Mon through Thurs		4:15	7:15	

Matt Lanter, Chris Riggi
Comedy • Rated PG 13

The Expendables

Friday		4:10	7:20	9:30
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:20	9:30
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:20	
Mon through Thurs		4:10	7:20	

Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham
War • Rated R

The Other Guys

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:20	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:20	7:10	
Mon through Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Mark Wahlberg, Will Farrell
Comedy • Rated PG 13

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Vanity Fair reporter speaks out about Palin story

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—The controversy over a Vanity Fair article about Sarah Palin continued Wednesday with the reporter disputing a conservative activist's claim that she tried to prevent him from mistaking her child for Palin's.

Reporter Michael Joseph Gross acknowledged last week that he mistook a child with Down syndrome, named Samuel Loudon, for Palin's youngest son, Trig.

But on Wednesday, in a Vanity Fair blog post, he disputed claims that Samuel's mother, conservative activist Gina Loudon, stopped him during a May rally in Kansas City suburb of Independence and tried to clear up the confusion. She insists he ignored her.

Gross' article, which appears in the magazine's October issue, describes Palin's youngest son, Trig, being pushed in a stroller by his older sister, Piper, before the rally.

"When the girl, Piper Palin, turns around, she sees her parents thronged by admirers, and the crowd rolling toward her and the baby, her brother Trig, born with Down syndrome in 2008," according to the article. "Sarah Palin and her husband, Todd, bend down and give a moment to the children; a woman, perhaps a nanny, whisks the boy away; and Todd hands Sarah her speech and walks her to the stage."

Gross said in his blog that he wasn't allowed backstage but saw what happened there from his seat in the audience.

But Loudon said Wednesday in a telephone interview that she stood by earlier remarks that she spoke to Gross during the rally and insisted it would have been impossible for him to witness what happened from the audience.

"As I stood backstage with the Palins I remember a reporter asking me if I were 'Trig's Nanny' with a hint of something I didn't trust in his eyes," she wrote in a blog on the website bigjournalism.com. "I coldly retorted, 'no, I am Samuel's mother.' He looked confused, and had more questions to follow."

AP Exclusive: Colbert, VP Biden fete US troops

NEW YORK (AP)—A hot dog vending cart was wheeled back and forth. Cocktail waitress hurried past with trays full of beer. Vice President Joe Biden led New York Yankees great Yogi Berra by the arm.

Such was the bizarre, red-white-and-blue circus backstage at comedian Stephen Colbert's celebration of U.S. troops' return from Iraq. The Comedy Central host pulled out all the stops Wednesday night for the first part of his two-episode special, "Been There: Won That: The Returnification of the American-Do Troopscape."

AP

Stephen Colbert rides an Army ASV while taping an episode of the Colbert Report on West 54th Street in New York, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010.

It was a somewhat rare show of exultation to what President Barack Obama has called the end of combat operations in Iraq. Some 50,000 troops remain in the Middle East country, where local forces have a tenuous hold on security. Fighting in Afghanistan also continues.

Those truths were never far from "The Colbert Report" on Wednesday, but Colbert made the evening's tone clear at the start.

"I'm not going to debate this war," said Colbert, in mock pundit character. "It's been seven years. Who can remember who invaded who?"

Instead he declared: "Tonight is for the troops."

The show's studio audience was packed with active troops and veterans, whom Colbert lavished with hot dogs, beer and ice cream. Biden played the part of hot dog vendor. Gen. Ray Odierno, the outgoing U.S. military commander in Iraq, donned a toupee of Colbert's hair. (Odierno famously shaved Colbert's head—on Obama's orders—when the comedian broadcast four episodes of "The Report" from Baghdad last year.)

AP: Spears' ex disputes abuse claims

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Kevin Federline's attorney says allegations by a former bodyguard that Britney Spears abused her children have been investigated and are "baseless."

Mark Vincent Kaplan says Fernando Flores' allegations in a lawsuit that Spears struck the former couple's young sons with a belt and acted inappropriately in front of them merit no action.

Federline has custody of the former couple's sons, Sean Preston and Jayden James, and Spears has substantial visitation with the boys.

Kaplan says he thinks Flores raised allegations of abuse toward the boys in a lawsuit purely for economic reasons.

Spears

Flores filed a sexual harassment lawsuit in Los Angeles against Spears and his ex-employer on Wednesday.

Lawsuit over filming of Beyonce video settled

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A lawsuit filed by a Los Angeles man upset with the disruption from a Beyonce Knowles music video shoot has been dismissed and settled.

A Los Angeles Superior Court judge dismissed Philip Markowitz's suit against the Grammy-winning singer on Friday.

Markowitz's lawsuit alleged the shoot for "Why Don't You Love Me" had "shattered" his privacy and kept him from having access to his home in the Hollywood Hills neighborhood. He claimed the filming stretched until 11 p.m.

He had been seeking more than $25,000 from Knowles, a liability company and a production coordinator.

Markowitz's attorney, Gary Kurtz, said the lawsuit was resolved to the satisfaction of both sides.

Knowles

"No one got rich, no one got poor," Kurtz said. "It was a modest but appropriate payment that was similar to what would have been paid pursuant to a reasonable agreement."

Pratt to Montag: Sorry for my outrageous behavior

NEW YORK (AP)—Former "The Hills" star Spencer Pratt is apologizing to his estranged wife, Heidi Montag, for acting out in their breakup.

The two starred on the MTV reality soap, which ended in July. They separated last May after one year of marriage.

Montag cited irreconcilable differences when she filed for separation from Pratt in June. Pratt said he would release a sex tape featuring Montag.

The 27-year-old Pratt tells The Associated Press in an e-mail sent Wednesday the demise of their relationship was so painful he wanted to lash out. He admits making "certain private issues public" and "horribly embarrassing the one person who meant the world to me." He says his behavior was "outrageous and infantile."

Pratt now says he's failed at handling his divorce with dignity and maturity and vows to work on himself.

AP

In this Nov. 16, 2009 file photo, Heidi Montag, left, and Spencer Pratt pose at a book signing event for their book "How To Be Famous" at Borders Books in New York.

Ruling doubles Don Johnson's 'Nash Bridges' award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Wednesday doubled Don Johnson's jury award for profits from the TV series "Nash Bridges" to more than $51 million.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Michael Stern ruled that the actor is due more than $28 million in interest from the show. The order came two months after a jury determined that Johnson, who owned half the copyright to the series, was owed $23.2 million in profits.

"Nash Bridges" aired for six seasons on CBS. Johnson sued three firms, including Rysher Entertainment, in February 2009 to recoup profits he claimed were withheld.

Johnson

Rysher's attorney, Bart H. Williams, did not immediately return a message seeking comment Wednesday. He has said the initial jury verdict would be appealed.

The company contended at trial that the series was costly to produce and that was why Johnson hadn't been paid more.

"'Nash Bridges' was my project, and I poured my heart into it," Johnson said in a statement. "I feel a sense of vindication and sincere gratitude that both the jury and Judge Stern continue to agree with me."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Hong Kong model arrested after Nevada desert event

RENO, Nev. (AP)—A Hong Kong fashion model was busted on felony drug charges at the Burning Man counterculture festival in Nevada and crashed her rented motor home into Reno's landmark arch the next day, authorities said Wednesday. Rosemary Vandenbroucke, 28, was arrested about 9:30 a.m. Sunday with a small amount of ecstasy after an officer questioned her about a substance she was seen passing to another person at the Labor Day weekend festival in the Black Rock desert, Pershing County Sheriff Ron Skinner said. Vandenbroucke was charged with possession of a controlled substance and released on $15,000 bail pending an Oct. 19 court appearance. A conviction could result in up to four years' probation.

MTV's 'Snooki' fined $500 for annoying beachgoers

SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Calling her "a Lindsay Lohan wannabe," a judge fined "Jersey Shore" star Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi $500 on Wednesday and ordered her to perform community service after she pleaded guilty to disturbing others on a beach in July. Her lawyer said Polizzi was under the influence of alcohol when she stumbled around the beach in Seaside Heights, using loud language that disturbed other beachgoers. Municipal Court Judge Damian G. Murray lectured Polizzi, borrowing from Dean Wormer's speech to Flounder in the movie "Animal House" in which the dean admonished the wayward student that "fat, drunk and stupid is no way to go through life."

Palin to join Beck at Anchorage 9/11 event

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)—Sarah Palin and Glenn Beck are teaming up again, this time in Alaska on the ninth anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. But unlike their free August rally at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., Saturday's event at an Anchorage convention center will come with a price tag. Tickets range from $73.75 to $225, with the priciest tickets including a "meet and greet." Organizers say most of the 4,500 tickets have been sold. Event promoter Christopher Cox says the 9/11 date is a coincidence. Cox originally eyed Sept. 4, but didn't want to compete with the Alaska State Fair. Cox says Beck will be introduced by Palin, a potential 2012 White House contender who hasn't announced her political intentions. Palin spokesman Doug McMarlin didn't immediately return requests for comment.

Va. philanthropist, billionaire John Kluge dies

John Kluge, once listed as the wealthiest man in America, who built an investment in a radio station into a broadcasting empire that was the forerunner to Fox Television, has died. He was 95. The University of Virginia said Wednesday that Kluge died Tuesday at his home near Charlottesville, Va. In 1983, Kluge took Metromedia Co. private in a leveraged buyout and then sold off properties piecemeal for $4.65 billion, including the 1985 sale of seven big-city television stations to Rupert Murdoch for $2 billion. Kluge had three children from his marriages to Theodora Thomson, Tolanda Zucco and Patricia Rose Gay, which all ended in divorce. He later married Maria Tussi.

Sudden end to long friendship becomes neighborhood gossip

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: "Pam" and I have been friends since childhood, when we attended preschool together. Our backgrounds are similar and we share the same religious views.

About two months ago, Pam suddenly stopped speaking to me. I have wracked my brain and honestly have no idea why. I have called, e-mailed and sent her letters to which she tersely replied, "Leave me alone."

I'm sick over it and don't know what to do. My kids love Pam and I adore her children and family. I cannot for the life of me imagine what would cause her to discard our friendship with no explanation.

I heard through the neighborhood grapevine that people suspect there must have been some kind of infidelity involved—such as Pam's husband hitting on me or mine on her. According to one neighbor, "It's the only plausible reason" a friendship like ours would end so abruptly. I am beside myself. What should I do?

HAVEN'T A CLUE IN NEW YORK

DEAR HAVEN'T A CLUE: I wish you had written me before soliciting advice from your neighbors because now you've got them talking. There may be something going on in your friend's life having nothing to do with you that she's not comfortable talking about right now—which could also account for her silence. Try not to internalize what has happened and allow her the space she's asking for. The truth will come out eventually. It always does ...

DEAR ABBY: I am a disabled man and I live with my 75-year-old mother. Most of the time we get along OK, but Mom is a "clutter bug." I have never known her to throw anything away.

There are newspapers and magazines stacked everywhere in our home dating back at least 10 years. Mom doesn't want to invite anyone into the house. She says it's "a mess," but she won't take advantage of any professional cleaning or organizing services. We haven't entertained in 30 years!

Could this be a sign of Alzheimer's? What can I do about her? Please help.

BURIED ALIVE IN AKRON

DEAR BURIED ALIVE: If your mother has been this way for 30 years, it's not Alzheimer's—she's a compulsive hoarder. She may need psychological help and/or medication to overcome her anxiety about letting anything go. If you have a social worker who helps with your disability, talk to that person about finding help for your mother. If you don't, talk to her physician. The situation as you describe it indicates the house could be a safety hazard—possibly a fire trap. Please do not procrastinate any longer because your lives could depend upon it.

DEAR ABBY: Is it odd to eat with one hand in one's lap? I didn't realize that I did it until my fiance's parents mentioned it to me at a dinner. When we subsequently ate with my family, I realized that every person in my family eats the same way.

My future in-laws say they have never heard of such a thing. My grandmother says it is good table manners, and I have no intention of changing. (My fiance and I are both third-generation Americans.)

What do we teach our (future) kids?

PROPERLY TAUGHT IN ARIZONA

DEAR PROPERLY TAUGHT: Teach them the proper table manners that you were taught as a child. According to Emily Post, by the time a child is 12, he or she should have learned to "sit with good posture and feet firmly on the floor throughout the meal. (And) KEEP FREE HAND IN LAP WHEN NOT CUTTING FOOD OR PASSING ITEMS." (The italics are mine.)

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'VE GOT TO SAY, HOBBES, IT DOESN'T G'VE OUR CLUB A LOT OF CREDIT WHEN THE FIRST TIGER IS A WILLING CAPTIVE OF THE ENEMY.
THBPTB
WE STOLE HER DOLL, AND I'M THE ONE WHO HAD TO PAY RANSOM! IT'S A DISGRACE!
YOU GET 15 DEMERITS FOR BESMIRCHING THE CLUB'S REPUTATION, PLUS FIVE DEMERITS FOR CONDUCT UNBECOMING AN OFFICER, AND A CENSURE IN THE CLUB BOOK FOR NOT DEVOURING SUSIE WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE. HMM, ANYTHING ELSE?
I ALMOST TOLD HER OUR CODE WHEN SHE RUBBED MY TUMMY.
GOOD GRAVY, WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! FIRST SPIDERS, NOW LICE!
WHY US? WHY MUST THE FATES BE SO CRUEL?
WE'RE GOOD PEOPLE! WHY? WHY? WHY?
AND YOU STILL HAVEN'T ANSWERED FOR THE UNIVERSAL CRIME THAT IS POWDERED COFFEE CREAMER!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

DO YOU EVER WORRY ABOUT ALL THE CHEMICALS THEY SPRAY ON VEGETABLES?
WHY DO YOU ASK?
THEY APPARENTLY TURNED THIS GUY INTO A GREEN GIANT.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 1865 villain
6 "Bow-wow!"
9 Muppet eagle
12 Flaxlike fiber
13 Bill's partner
14 Rd.
15 Sports venue
16 Snickers bar component
18 Epistle
20 Aching
21 Micro-brewery product
23 Scuttle
24 Aspect
25 Maze option
27 When pigs fly
29 Prayer beads
31 Geronimo was one
35 Twangy
37 Primary
38 Critter
41 Massage
43 Sra., across the Pyrenees
44 Therefore
45 Barbara Bush's maiden name
47 Glossy coats
49 Relieve
52 Healthy
53 Doctor's due
54 Weeper of myth
55 Witness
56 "The Joy Luck Club" author
57 Loves too much, maybe

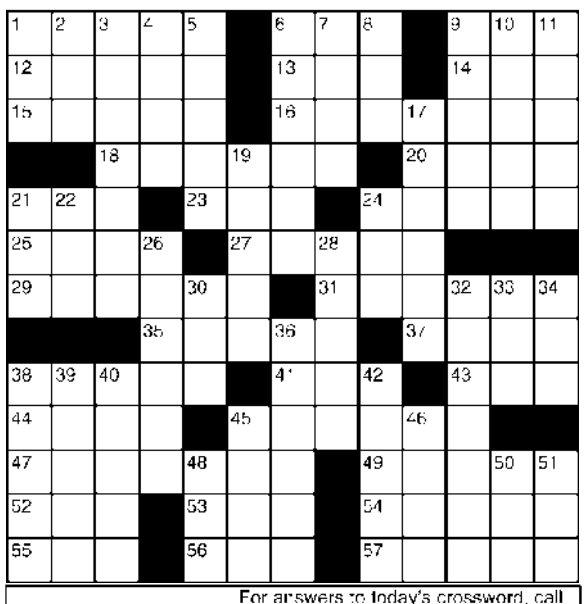
DOWN

1 Support system?
2 Scull tool
3 Brunch entrees
4 Prong
5 Moor
6 Give consent (to)
7 Bellow
8 In favor of
9 Pago Pago's place
10 States with conviction
11 Big brouhaha
17 Guru's retreat
19 Stage statuary
21 Spring mo.
22 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
24 Energy
26 Two-wheeled carriage
28 Worth
30 Snitch
32 The JFK administration, metaphorically
33 That guy
34 Away from WSW
36 Up
38 Complaints
39 Bert's pal
40 Shooting marble
42 Cattle ranch ID
45 Entreaty
46 Advertising award
48 Salamander
50 Rushmore face
51 "Of course"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	L	A	T	■	P	E	G	■	O	P	E	D
T	A	X	I	■	A	I	L	■	P	A	P	A
A	M	I	D	■	R	■	O	■	E	R	I	N
B	A	L	B	O	A	■	M	E	N	A	C	E
■	■	■	I	N	K	■	■	V	F	N	■	■
S	E	P	T	■	E	M	P	E	R	O	R	S
O	V	A	■	■	C	■	A	■	■	I	O	U
D	A	R	K	S	T	A	R	■	P	A	W	N
■	■	A	N	■	■	■	A	J	O	■	■	■
A	L	B	I	N	O	■	L	O	U	N	G	E
G	O	O	F	■	N	■	L	■	N	O	O	K
A	B	L	E	■	E	H	A	■	C	O	■	E
R	E	A	D	■	S	E	X	■	E	N	D	S

Yesterday's answer 9-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ryan Phillippe, 36; Amy Irving, 57; Joe Perry, 60; Jose Feliciano, 65

Happy Birthday: Be ready to make whatever move is required to hold on to what you have and make the gains that will set you apart. End any questionable partnerships. Let the hard times and past experiences help you achieve now. Incorporate passion into everything you do personally and professionally and you will succeed. Your numbers are 3, 14, 17, 21, 27, 37, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Stay calm and let things unfold naturally. Making a fuss will only set your plans back further. Relationship problems and emotional concerns will bring added responsibilities. Set boundaries. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Business connections can be made. Your ability to pick up information quickly and apply it to what's expected of you will keep you in the running for an interesting position with plenty of opportunity. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Show a little emotion and you will capture attention, compassion and the help you require to get things done. Your serious attitude and request for assistance will pay off financially and professionally. Charm and intelligent banter will help you win favors. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll take three steps forward and two steps back. Don't let the lack of progress depress you. Sometimes having to wait or showing patience is a saving grace. Romance is in the stars; plan a special evening. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Friends, family and neighbors can help you with the changes you want to make to your home or property. Don't let love get you down. Your positive response will impress anyone watching how you handle emotional situations. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Dedication, hard work and using your knowledge will work to your advantage. Plan to take time off to enjoy the company of someone you care for or learn a skill that will help you get ahead or achieve a lifelong goal. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Offer your services to the right people or organizations. Once you show people what you are capable of doing, the rest will be easy. Don't let problems at home or with someone's jealousy cause you to miss a life-altering opportunity. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Put your differences aside and spend time with the people who have the most to offer you personally. There will be interest in your qualifications when you apply for a job. Be willing to be flexible about the hours. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may question the changes going on in your personal and home life, but you must get things under control instead of putting blame elsewhere. Put inevitable changes behind you so you can get back to working and making money. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You have to stand your ground and offer what you can, not what someone else expects.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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You deserve better and more for what you have done in the past. A deal that you couldn't complete in the past can be revitalized and can turn out to be your ticket to success. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Getting involved in a moneymaking venture or in turning a profit by selling something you possess will buy you the freedom you need to make life-altering changes. Don't let someone who wants to take advantage of you stand between you and your dreams. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't sell yourself short. A deal may look good but, once you realize how much you have to offer, you may want to reconsider or go it alone. Figure out what you need to run the show before you give a firm answer. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are aggressive and productive, a thinker, creator and competitor. You strive for perfection. You are a loyal friend, lover, companion and colleague.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1	5			4		
		4		9			6	
6	2							7
8			7					
	7						3	
					3			9
3							9	8
	9			5		1		
		5			2	7		

Difficulty Level ★★★★

9/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

5	9	7	4	8	1	2	6	3
4	3	2	7	9	6	5	8	1
8	1	6	5	2	3	9	4	7
9	7	5	6	3	4	8	1	2
6	4	8	9	1	2	3	7	5
3	2	1	8	5	7	6	9	4
2	5	4	1	6	8	7	3	9
1	6	9	3	7	5	4	2	8
7	8	3	2	4	9	1	5	6

Difficulty Low ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

A SINGING CAREER Solution: 6 letters

C	S	W	E	E	T	N	O	T	E	S	H	A	R	P
O	R	V	L	I	Y	B	S	E	R	V	A	R	Y	P
A	N	O	I	T	I	D	U	A	S	A	I	I	A	R
C	D	C	W	R	N	R	R	R	H	O	I	R	W	A
H	A	A	D	D	E	A	O	S	O	G	P	N	D	C
A	N	L	L	G	S	N	H	V	H	N	U	M	A	T
U	C	S	N	O	A	O	C	C	A	O	E	O	O	I
D	F	A	N	R	W	T	P	I	A	F	W	T	R	C
I	R	G	P	E	R	S	U	E	L	N	T	S	B	E
E	S	O	R	E	E	L	T	A	R	E	O	A	E	R
N	S	O	C	I	L	U	I	A	S	A	S	N	A	S
C	T	N	D	A	N	I	I	I	R	S	O	F	T	C
E	O	L	B	E	C	H	A	R	M	O	N	Y	S	A
C	O	Y	P	R	O	F	E	S	S	I	O	N	A	L
C	L	A	S	S	E	S	E	S	I	C	R	E	X	E

© 2010 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com share us on Facebook 9/10

Acapella, Audience, Audition, Bass, Beat, Bird, Broadway, Canon, Chant, Chorus, Classes, Coach, Compose, Concert, Crowds, Dance, Drive, Exercises, Falsetto, Favorite, Flat, Harmony, High, Lows, Lullaby, Notes, Oldies, Opera, Practice, Professional, Range, Rare, Rough, Scale, Sharp, Shower, Shows, Soft, Songs, Soprano, Star, Sweet, Tenor, Train, Tune, Vary, Vocals

Yesterday's Answer: Forest

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Board of Directors

Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities

The Board of Directors for the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities (Council) wishes to announce an impending vacancy on its board of directors.

The Council is a non-profit private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Council's mission is to "foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth."

The Council's board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Raising funds and recruiting community partners;
- Providing input from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the NMI Council for the Humanities.

Interested individuals are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to **Tracy M. Guerrero, Chair, Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950** or delivered to the NMI Council for the Humanities office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. All letters of interest and resumes must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, **September 24, 2010**. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Scott Russell, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmihumanities.org.

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION – ELECTRIC DIVISION **DOCKET 09-1**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT at 9:00 a.m. on September 17, 2010, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] will conduct a public hearing and regulatory workshop at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Family Building, Garapan to consider the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's [CUC] position on the levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC], which the Commission should be set for the period October 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011. On December 19, 2008, the Commission established a LEAC clause in CUC's tariff by which a semi-annual rate is set and adjusted to enable CUC to recover its projected fuel and related expenses. On May 28, 2010, the Commission established the current rate of $0.24446 per kWh. CUC and the Commission's regulatory consultant have recommended that a new rate of $0.24100 per kWh be established for the upcoming six month period, which is a slight reduction in the current rate. On or before September 11, 2010, CUC's formal LEAC report, which supports the proposed rate, will be posted on the website of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, Public Utilities for public review. Other collateral regulatory matters may also be discussed at the hearing.

At the hearing CUC will also brief the Commission on the status of: a] its accounts receivable; b] its progress in Docket 10-01 in providing operational meters for all commercial and government water customers; c] unmetered wastewater service; and d] discussions with Georgetown regarding regulatory reporting requirements.

The Commission welcomes the public's attendance at the hearing and will also welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before September 12, 2010 file with the Commission at the office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce an application and offer of proof in accordance with § 8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c).

Further information about the hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Kyle Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

Northern Marianas College

Procurement & Property Management Office

P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu, Website: www.nmcnet.edu

REQUEST FOR QUOTATION
RFQ 10-006

Academic Program and Services

Northern Marianas College is soliciting quotation for the services of a qualified consultant on the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA).

Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Tuesday (September 07, 2010) to Friday between the hours of 8: 30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

This procurement is federally funded so in accordance to P.L 15-95 as amended by P.L 15-118, local preference does not apply.

Quotations are due no later than 4:00 p.m., September 10, 2010, at Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950. You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Anita Camacho (anitac@nmcnet.edu).

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all quotations for any reason and waive any defect in said quotations, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFQ, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC.

This project is funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. All provisions apply.

Approved by the following:

/s/ Anita Camacho
NMC Procurement Manager

/s/ Lorraine T Cabrera
Interim President

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

MICRONESIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION REGULATORY MATTERS **DOCKET 09-3**

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission [Commission] is directed by 4 CMC § 8421(a), to review Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation's [MTC] local rates to determine whether they are just and reasonable. MTC, doing business as IT&E, serves as the Commonwealth's incumbent local exchange carrier. The Commission is also directed by its enabling legislation to examine the adequacy of MTC's tariff, insurance and quality standards for services and facilities. Moreover, 4 CMC §8409(d) directs the Commission to review and approve any MTC divestiture of capital or contractual agreement, which may increase customer rates and charges. The Commission is further tasked by federal law to annually certify whether eligible telecommunications carriers, including MTC, who provide service within the Commonwealth, should receive federal high cost support for the provision, maintenance and upgrading of facilities and services. In order to facilitate this annual review, the Commission has crafted and posted on the Chamber's website a proposed administrative order, which would - effective October 1, 2010 - establish the protocol for this review.

In response to these statutory directives, the Commission' staff [Staff] has conducted a thorough review and is prepared to present its report to the Commission during the September 2010 regulatory session. In substantial measure, Staff's report is supported by MTC through three stipulations [DID Stipulation dated August 18, 2010; ETC Certification Stipulation dated July 15, 2010 and Quality of Service Stipulation dated July 15, 2010], which have been posted in this docket on the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's website [saipanchamber.com] for public review.

MTC and Staff support the Commission's approval of the revised MTC local exchange tariff, which is posted on MTC's website [pti.com/global/tariff] for public review. The revised tariff would make the following material changes to MTC's current tariff: 1. Change the credit establishment charge from $100 for business and $50 for residential customers to a charge equal to two months billing [generally reducing this charge]. 2. Require the return of customer deposits, with 4% simple interest per annum after 12 consecutive months without disconnection for non-payment. 3. Reduce the return check charge from $50.00 to $30.00. 4. Permit customer billing disputes to be initiated within 30 days instead of the current 15 days of bill presentation. 5. Institute a $55 per hour [2 hour minimum] "out-of hours" trouble isolation charge for service problems, which are the customer's responsibility. 6. Add pay telephone lines as a distinct service at the same charge as single line business basic service and add new $2.00 rates for some coin features. 7. Re-write the lifeline and link-up service tariff section to conform with current FCC requirements. 8. Establish interim direct inward dial rates of $25 per block of 100 DID numbers; $30 per PBX trunk termination; and $85 per PBX trunk; subject to further Commission review in the November 2010 regulatory session. 9. Add CentraNet service rates, which are currently being charged as untariffed rates and revise service terms and conditions. 10. Add network schematic drawings to identify private line service rate elements. 11. Delete reference to Commonwealth inter-island long distance service, which is provided without additional charge. 12. Add the following non-recurring private line installation charges: $250 for dry lines, 9.6 Kbps lines and 19.2 to 56/64 Kbps lines; and $450 for 125 Kbps to 11.544 Mbps lines. 13. Update the tariff language to make it consistent with generally accepted regulatory practices.

MTC and Staff have a material disagreement about whether MTC's local rates are just and reasonable. Relevant briefs, which present the parties' positions regarding this disagreement, are posted on the Chamber's website. Unless resolved, this disagreement will be presented to the Commission by argument and further proceedings at the public hearing noticed below. At issue is whether initial high level review proceedings of MTC's rate of return have produced preponderant evidence that its local rates are just and reasonable and, therefore, require no in-depth review at the present time.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Commission will conduct a public hearing, which will commence at 1:00 p.m. on Friday September 17, 2010 at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's conference room in the Family Building Garapan to consider the above matters and to receive public comment regarding them. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC §8409(j) should on or before September 13, 2010 file with the Commission at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce offices an application and offer of proof in accordance with §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, September 24, 2010 at the Garapan office of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from Commissioner Calabrese at 670-233-7150.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

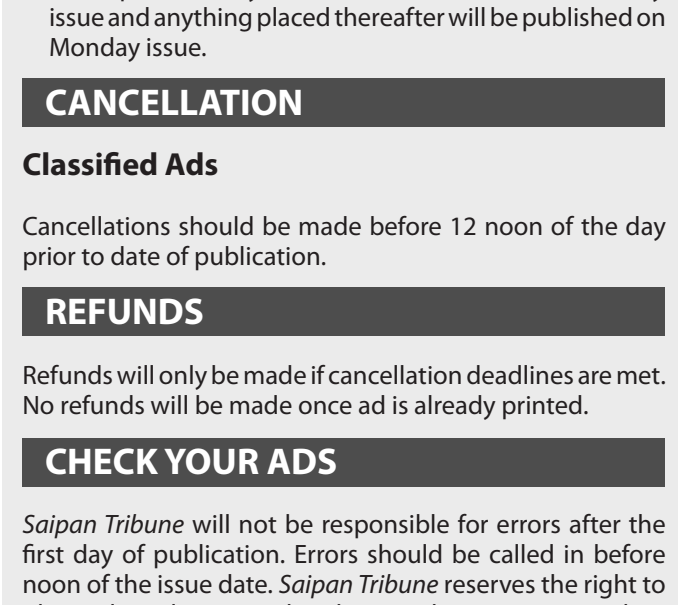
Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.



Find today's solution in this section

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Only $35 Service
For lawnmower small engine
Please call
233-5641
Open: 7 Day a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

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Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
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QQ RENT A CAR
Starting as low as... $25.00 without Insurance
Call: 233-9889, 483-8866 or 233-8866
$100 Security Deposit Required
Please visit QQ Store Garapan (2nd Road behind Fire Station)
Some conditions may apply

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'A Night to Remember'
Positions available for
WAITRESS
HOSTESS
SINGER
DANCER
Full-time and part-time
Located at As Lito Road.
288-8090/287-8090

VACANCY
J.C. Tenorio Ent, Inc., is currently seeking for qualified candidates to fill the following position
COOK
Please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources Office Joeten Center, Susupe
(NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE)

OFFICE/HOUSE/SHOP NEEDED
Preferably in Garapan or near Harbor Areas
Desire 3 - 5 Years Lease
Contact Tel. 237-5370 for more information.
8am - 6pm

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 — **Closing Date: Friday, September 24, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-046	Trades Assistant	1	$11,036.00	Two-year	Water, Tinian
10-047	Accounting Assistant	1	$12,263.00	Two-year	Chief Financial Officer Div., Saipan

Opening Date: Friday, September 10, 2010 — **Closing Date: Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

JVA NO.	Position Title	Positions	*Salary	Contract	Location
10-048	Safety Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-049	Compliance Officer	1	$27,921.00 - $36,297.00	Two-year	Admin. Office, Saipan
10-050	Information Technology (IT) Specialist	2	$19,425.00 - $25,981.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-051	Information Analyst (IT) Analyst	2	$34,176.00 - $44,429.00	Two-year	IT, Saipan
10-052	Accountant	1	$34,176.00 - $41,011.00	Two-year	Accounting, Saipan

*For more information about the position (s) being advertised; requirements, equivalency policy, and salary; please contact or stop by the human resource office on the third floor of the Joeten Dandan Building.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER
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DELTA MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
is seeking
Customer Service Representatives
Cashiers and Pump Attendants
Full Time / Part-time

We are looking for energetic people who are friendly, smiling, dependable, and desires to be a team player to work as Customer Service Representatives.

Successful candidates must be able to demonstrate effective;
People skills
Communication skills
English and Math skills.

• Reliable transportation is required
• Must be punctual
• Must be willing to learn new skills & follow instructions
• Must be able to work a flexible schedule; including
• Sunday's and Holiday's.
• Sales or customer service background helpful
• A High School Diploma or GED required.
• Applications are available @ Shell Gualo Rai (across from Pizza Hut)

Delta Management is an Equal Opportunity Employer

TBK Auto Cares
WANTED

- **Second hand Good Condition Shop Tools and Equipments**
  - Air Tools (Impact Wrenches / Ratchets)
  - Electric Tools
  - Hand Tools (Wrench/Socket Wrench Sets)
  - Specialty Tools
  - A/C Tools (Portable Freon Recovery Machine)
  - Welding (Oxygen/Acetylene set)
  - Car/Truck Lifters 5 tons and above
  - Jack / Jack Stands
  - Body / Paint Tools
  - Tire Mounting Machine
  - Tire Balancing Machine
- **Fast and Hardworking Mechanic for:**
  - Heavy Equipment
  - Gasoline/Diesel FED Engine
  - Auto Electrical

Please call 285-1525, 323-1328 or 323-2828 and look for Rainier

WHATZIT Solution:
More question than answers

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Looking for CAUCASIAN EXTRA MODEL FOR TV-COMMERCIAL MALE/FEMALE
20 – 60 years old
Please call: 323-2101/888-3245 or email: goodday_saipan@yahoo.com

FOR RENT
ONE BR. APT. NEAR MHS in a quite, secure area behind Calvo's Nursery, off Texas Rd. 24 hrs govt. and rain water with its own washing machine. Fully furnished and air conditioned. Ceiling fans in all rooms Two walk-in closets. Water included. $375. Call Ed at 788-6268.

CLICK IT OR TICKET
DAY & NIGHT

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Federer tops Soderling, reaches semifinals

NEW YORK (AP)—On this evening, certainly, Roger Federer was back to his old self.

Back to beating Robin Soderling, and back to being a Grand Slam semifinalist—two things he used to do as a matter of course.

Treating the whipping wind and his familiar foe as only slight nuisances, 16-time Grand Slam champion Federer served his way to a convincing 6-4, 6-4, 7-5 victory over the fifth-seeded Soderling in the U.S. Open quarterfinals Wednesday night.

"I've been practicing my serve a whole lot, for my whole career. If I can't serve in the wind, I've got a problem, you know?" said Federer, who had an 18-2 edge in aces against the big-hitting Soderling. "You could probably wake me up at 2 in the morning, or 4 in the morning, and I could hit a few serves."

Federer mixed speed with pinpoint placement, keeping two-time French Open runner-up Soderling guessing on returns.

"I always expect Roger to play well and serve well," Soderling said. "He served really well. He was brushing the lines a lot with his first serve, which is not easy when the weather is like this. He did that really well; much better than me."

Federer is 13-1 against Soderling. The lone loss was in their previous match, in the French Open quarterfinals when Soderling Federer's streak of reaching the semifinals at a record 23 major tournaments.

Federer then lost in the quarterfinals at Wimbledon, prompting some to question whether his best days were behind him. But now, a month after his 29th birthday, he is back in the semifinals at a Grand Slam tournament—one that he has won five times.

Federer has won 45 of his last 46 matches in Flushing Meadows, the one exception the 2009 final against Juan Martin del Potro.

The second-seeded Federer will meet third-seeded Novak Djokovic in Saturday's semifinals. It's the fourth consecutive year they'll play each other in New York; they met in the 2007 final, then the 2008-09 semifinals—and Federer went 3-0.

"You never know what's going to happen," 2008 Australian Open champion Djokovic said after beating 17th-seeded Gael Monfils of France 7-6 (2), 6-1, 6-2 earlier Wednesday. "I don't want to think about those losses in the last three years, which were really, really close."

All of the day's matches were filled with wind that gusted at up to 30 mph, sending all sorts of debris—brown napkins; plastic bags; players' towels—rolling on the court like tumbleweed, forcing points to be stopped and repeatedly making players catch their ball tosses.

"When it gets windy, I don't struggle much," Federer said. "I don't panic."

Other players did, earlier in the day, and about a half-dozen lets were called during top-seeded Caroline Wozniacki's 6-2, 7-5 victory over 45th-ranked Dominika Cibulkova in the last women's quarterfinal.

"This felt like playing in a hurricane or something," said Wozniacki, who is 19-1 since Wimbledon and has won her past 13 matches.

In Friday's semifinals, the 2009 U.S. Open runner-up will face 2010 Wimbledon runner-up Vera Zvonareva, a 6-3, 7-5 winner over 31st-seeded Kaia Kanepi.

A year ago in New York, during a fourth-round loss, Zvonareva wasted six match points and threw a tantrum. She bawled. She slammed her racket against her leg. She begged the chair umpire to get scissors so she could cut tape off her knees.

And Wednesday? No. 7 Zvonareva was calm and composed, letting Kanepi make mistake after mistake, 60 unforced errors in all. Zvonareva finished with only 28.

"Yeah, it was blowing in every way," Kanepi said.

Neither afternoon match featured much drama - nor doubt about who would win. In sum, they felt akin to opening acts before Wednesday's featured performers took the stage under the lights.

First came Wozniacki-Cibulkova, with Donald Trump in attendance, his hair getting mussed by the wind.

"He called my agent and asked if there was going to be a space in my box," said Wozniacki, who made only 18 unforced errors, 25 fewer than Cibulkova. "I said, 'Of course, there's always a place for Mr. Trump.'"

Trump stuck around for the main event: Federer vs. Soderling, a matchup made so much more intriguing by what happened the last time they squared off. That was on a dreary, rainy day in Paris, and the 6-foot-4 Soderling—he's 3 inches taller than Federer—used his strong forehand and serve to great effect, driving winners through the thick weather and pounding 14 aces.

On Wednesday, in contrast, Soderling didn't hit his first ace of the evening until the 143rd point of the match, nearly 1 1/2 hours in, earning a smattering of sarcastic cheers from some fans in the sellout crowd of 23,718. By that time, Federer already had 15 aces, including three in a row in one game.

The wind affected shots, pushing behind a player's back at one end of the court, and blowing into his face at the other. How big a deal was it? Instead of opting to serve when he won the prematch coin toss, Federer selected which side of the court he wanted to start on, choosing to have the wind behind him for the first game.

"He can play really well in the wind," Soderling said. "He moves well. He's always in the right place."

Soderling chose to serve first, against the wind, and when they switched sides after that game, he earned three break points. But Federer saved each of them, the last with an ace at 120 mph, and held to 1-all. Soderling appeared to get rattled in that game on the first break point, when Federer challenged a call and got it overturned on replay review. Soderling wanted the point replayed, but the chair umpire awarded the point to Federer. Soderling argued, to no avail.

Soderling got a fourth break chance in the sixth game, but let that slide by pushing a forehand long. From there, Federer won the next 15 consecutive points on his serve, including 10 in a row in which Soderling didn't even manage to put the ball in play with a return.

At 3-all, 30-15, Soderling blinked first. He missed a backhand, then a forehand, giving Federer his first break opportunity. And Federer made good with a fantastic drop shot that simply died on the court, ending a 12-stroke point and making it 4-3.

After an early trade of service breaks in the second set, Soderling again had a lapse at 2-all. Ahead 40-love on his serve, he badly missed what should have been an easy overhead, putting it in the net. He lost the next five points to get broken—and was never again in that set.

Soderling appeared to get himself back into the match by breaking for a 5-3 lead in the third set when Federer sailed an inside-out forehand wide on a 13-stroke exchange. The intrigue there lasted for all of a minute or so, because Federer broke right back to 5-4, helped by three consecutive errant forehands by Soderling.

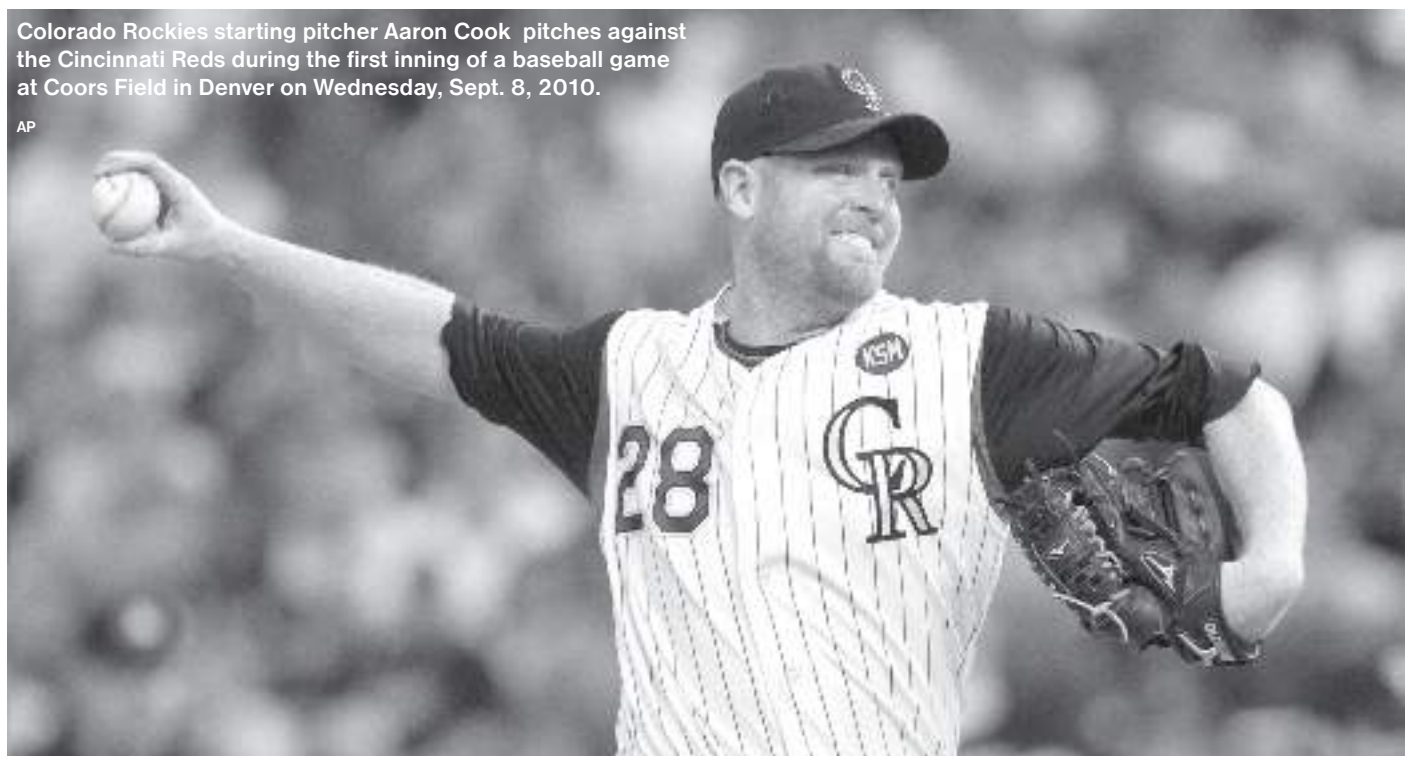
At 5-all, Federer used the wind in his favor, taking a strong forehand approach shot by Soderling and hitting a hard, slice backhand lob. The shot curled over Soderling and floated down near the baseline. Soderling got there, but his forehand went long.

That helped Federer get two more break points, and he converted the second when Soderling yanked a backhand wide.

All that was left for Federer to do was serve out the victory. He did. And he finished, appropriately, with a pair of aces.

"I was able to pull away," Federer said, "and close it out quickly."

Rockies win despite pitcher's broken leg



Colorado Rockies starting pitcher Aaron Cook pitches against the Cincinnati Reds during the first inning of a baseball game at Coors Field in Denver on Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010.

AP

DENVER (AP)—The Colorado Rockies beat the struggling Cincinnati Reds 9-2 in the National League on Wednesday, earning their sixth consecutive victory despite losing starting pitcher Aaron Cook to a broken leg.

Cook was struck in the lower right leg by a line drive off the bat of Joey Votto in the sixth inning. The team initially reported the injury as a bruise, but X-rays revealed a fracture. Cook (6-8) allowed one run in five-plus innings.

Troy Tulowitzki provided the bulk of the offense, hitting a three-run homer off Bronson Arroyo (14-10) in the third and a solo shot two innings later.

The Rockies matched their longest winning streak of the season and remained 4-1/2 games behind both NL West leader San Diego and wild-card holder Atlanta.

Despite their fourth straight loss, the Reds still lead the NL Central by six games over St. Louis.

Phillies 10, Marlins 6

In Philadelphia, Ryan Howard had six RBIs to power Philadelphia past Florida.

Howard hit his 28th homer of the season and the NL East-leading Phillies had a season-high 18 hits.

Philadelphia starter Cole Hamels got the run support he had been missing most of the season. Hamels (10-10) pitched seven innings and extended his consecutive scoreless innings streak to 25. He struck out five and won his third straight start.

Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins left with tightness in his right hamstring.

Florida starter Andrew Miller (1-1) gave up seven runs in four innings.

Padres 4, Dodgers 0

In San Diego, rookie Cory Luebke struck out seven in six sparkling innings, guiding San Diego past Los Angeles.

Luebke (1-1) gave the Padres a big lift in his second major league start.

San Diego has won three consecutive games since losing 10 in a row and is two games clear of San Francisco atop the NL West. The Padres will host the Giants in a vital four-game series beginning Thursday.

Dodgers starter Chad Billingsley (11-9) allowed four runs in 5 1-3 innings.

Brewers 8, Cardinals 1

In Milwaukee, Ryan Braun hit a three-run homer as Milwaukee cruised past St. Louis.

Cardinals rookie Jaime Garcia (13-7) had been looking for his fourth straight win. Instead, he gave up a career-worst seven runs.

Albert Pujols hit his 36th homer in the first for St. Louis, but that was the only run Brewers starter Chris Capuano (3-3) allowed over seven innings.

Capuano had his longest outing since 2007 after missing the past two seasons because of his second Tommy John surgery.

Diamondbacks 3, Giants 1

In Phoenix, Arizona snapped San Francisco's four-game winning streak.

Daniel Hudson (5-1) gave up a homer in the first, but settled to pitch seven effective innings as the Diamondbacks ended a four-game losing skid.

Giants starter Barry Zito (8-12) was almost as good as Hudson, giving up four hits in six innings, but still lost his eighth consecutive decision.

Mets 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, pinch-hitter Nick Evans delivered a tiebreaking double in the seventh inning, lifting New York over Washington.

Josh Thole led off the Mets seventh with a walk against Livan Hernandez (9-11) and moved to second on Ruben Tejada's sacrifice. Evans then got a broken-bat double past first base for the go-ahead run.

New York starter R.A. Dickey (10-6) yielded two runs in six innings. Hisanori Takahashi worked the ninth for his fifth save.

Braves 9, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Omar Infante had three hits as Atlanta got the win it badly needed, downing Pittsburgh.

The Braves opened leads of 3-0 in the first and 8-0 in the third after being held to two runs or fewer in five of their previous six games. They had lost three in a row to fall out of the NL East lead for the first time since May, dropping behind Philadelphia.

Atlanta opened a two-game lead over San Francisco in the wild-card race.

Braves starter Derek Lowe (12-12) beat Pittsburgh for the 10th straight time—the best such record by any major league pitcher.

Pirates starter Zach Duke (7-13) retired only three of 11 batters, giving up six hits and walking two in one-plus inning.

Astros 4, Cubs 0

In Chicago, Brett Myers struck out eight in seven crisp innings, steering Houston past Chicago.

Myers (11-7) is 3-0 with a 1.76 ERA in his past six starts. He has lasted at least six innings in all 29 of his starts—the longest streak in team history and longest in the majors since Curt Schilling's run of 35 straight for Arizona in 2002.

Hunter Pence homered for surging Houston, which took all five series against the Cubs this season.

Chicago starter Randy Wells (6-13) allowed four runs in six innings.

Yankees 3, Orioles 2

In New York, Nick Swisher hit a two-run homer off Koji Uehara in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the New York Yankees a victory over the Baltimore Orioles.

With the Orioles closing in on their first three-game sweep in the Bronx since 1986, Alex Rodriguez opened the ninth with a single on the first pitch from Uehara (1-1). Robinson Cano flied out and Swisher drove a 2-0 pitch to the opposite field, into Baltimore's bullpen in left-center.

It was Swisher's 26th homer this season and his third career game-ending shot.

Matt Wieters hit a two-run homer for Baltimore.

Red Sox 11, Rays 5

In Boston, Tim Wakefield became the oldest pitcher to win for Boston, which backed the 44-year-old knuckleballer with five home runs in a win over Tampa Bay.

Marco Scutaro hit two homers and Adrian Beltre, David Ortiz and Victor Martinez also connected. Four of the homers were off Matt Garza (14-8).

Wakefield (4-10) surpassed Hall of Famer Dennis Eckersley, who was 43 when he got his last win for the Red Sox.

The Rays dropped to 2 1/2 games behind the American League East-leading Yankees. Boston is nine games behind New York.

B.J. Upton hit a three-run homer for Tampa Bay.

Rangers 8, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Ian Kinsler led off the game with a home run and Derek Holland won for the first time since mid-May as AL West-leading Texas stopped its losing streak at five games.

Nelson Cruz also homered for Texas, which had lost seven straight to the Blue Jays since a victory on opening day.

Kinsler hit the 13th leadoff home run of his career and first this season. Cruz launched a two-run drive off the center-field restaurant in the ninth, his 17th.

Twins 4, Royals 3

In Minneapolis, Brian Duensing allowed one run and struck out seven batters over eight innings as Minnesota continued an impressive run of success against Kansas City pitcher Zack Greinke to complete a three-game sweep.

Duensing (8-2) allowed six hits and dropped his ERA to 2.02. J.J. Hardy homered and Denard Span added a two-run triple for the Twins, who have won six straight games to take a 5 1/2-game lead over Chicago in the AL Central.

Greinke (8-12) fell to 0-4 with an 8.18 ERA against the Twins this season. He allowed four runs and five hits with four strikeouts and three walks in eight innings.

The Royals scored twice in the ninth off Matt Capps, but he got pinch-hitter Mitch Maier to fly out for his 11th save.

Tigers 5, White Sox 1

In Detroit, Jeremy Bonderman pitched eight strong innings as Detroit downed Chicago.

Chicago entered the game with a seven-game winning streak, but has been outscored 14-2 by the Tigers over the last two nights, including seven unearned runs.

Bonderman retired the first 10 batters of the game before Omar Vizquel broke the scoreless tie with his second homer of the season.

Angels 4, Indians 3, 16 innings

At Anaheim, California, Jeff Mathis drove in the winning run with a sacrifice fly in the bottom of the 16th for Los Angeles, which got home runs from Mike Napoli and rookie Peter Bourjos in the longest game of the season for both teams.

Cleveland rookie Hector Ambriz (0-2), working his fourth inning of relief, gave up a leadoff double to left-center by Torii Hunter on the 500th pitch of the game. Hunter advanced on a grounder to first and jogged home after Mathis' flyball to right.

Athletics 4, Mariners 3

In Oakland, California, Coco Crisp homered and drove in three runs, including the go-ahead score in the sixth inning, to help Oakland beat Seattle.

Cliff Pennington also drove in a run for the A's, who won their fourth in six games.

Gio Gonzalez (14-8) matched his career-high fourth straight victory after allowing three runs and six hits over 6 2-3 innings. He walked two and struck out nine.

Russell Branyan hit a two-run homer and Matt Tuiasosopo hit a solo shot for the Mariners, who fell to 6-12 since a three-game winning streak Aug. 17-20.

Clemens' lawyers ask NY judge to toss suit

NEW YORK (AP)—A defamation lawsuit against Roger Clemens should be thrown out because the seven-time Cy Young Award winner was merely trying to defend himself against his former personal trainer's doping allegations, Clemens' lawyers argued Wednesday.

Clemens should be able to respond to claims "that are disastrous to his reputation without being subject to a lawsuit," attorney Rusty Hardin said at a hearing in federal court in Brooklyn.

Lawyers for the trainer, Brian McNamee, responded by branding Clemens a liar.

"Mr. Clemens has a right to defend himself, but not when he's lying and he knows he's lying," said attorney Richard Emery.

U.S. District Judge Sterling Johnson Jr. reserved decision on a motion to dismiss the suit.

McNamee sued for unspecified damages last year, accusing Clemens of waging "a defamatory public relations campaign" against the trainer over allegations the pitcher used steroids.

The trainer has told federal authorities, baseball investigator George Mitchell and a House committee that he injected Clemens more than a dozen times with steroids and human growth hormone from 1998-2001.

The suit quotes Clemens saying in a YouTube video in 2007 that McNamee "did not inject steroids into my body either when I played in Toronto for the Blue Jays or the New York Yankees." It also cites an ESPN interview in which Clemens, when asked about McNamee, responded that it was a case of "somebody out there that is really crawling up your back to make a buck."

The comments "always happened in response to accusations," Hardin said Wednesday. "He is not defaming Mr. McNamee by saying these things."

Emery argued his client "had to tell the government the truth ... and when he told the truth, he was put in the position of being called a liar repeatedly."

Clemens, who wasn't in court on Wednesday, has steadfastly denied using performance-enhancing drugs.

"Your honor, he wasn't injected with anything," another Clemens attorney, Joe Roden, said at the Brooklyn hearing.

Last month, Clemens was indicted for lying to Congress. He has pleaded not guilty to perjury and other counts, and has a trial scheduled for April.

A federal appeals court in Texas has refused to reinstate a similar suit Clemens filed against McNamee.

Serbia knocks defending champ Spain out of worlds

ISTANBUL (AP)—Serbia knocked defending champ Spain out of the world championship Wednesday when Milos Teodosic made a long 3-pointer with 3.1 seconds left for a 92-89 quarterfinal victory.

Spain erased an eight-point deficit in the final 4 minutes to tie it on Marc Gasol's basket with 25 seconds remaining. After a timeout, Serbia patiently ran its offense until Teodosic—1 of 7 on 3-pointers at that point—pulled up from straightaway, well beyond the arc.

"He's a great player and he has a great feeling for the big shot," Spain coach Sergio Scariolo said.

The Spaniards couldn't get a final shot off, with Jorge Garbajosa losing the ball after a timeout. Serbia's players celebrated at midcourt as Spain's Sergio Llull kicked the ball deep into the stands.

"I think it was a very, very tough game. Maybe the best one until now in Istanbul," Serbia coach Dusan Ivkovic said.

Avenging a loss in last year's European championship game, Serbia advanced to face Turkey in a semifinal game Saturday. The hosts remained unbeaten with a 95-68 victory over Slovenia later Wednesday.

"It's very difficult to forget this kind of game, but we have to try to forget everything that happened tonight because in two days we will play in the semifinals," Teodosic said.

Marko Keselj and Novica Velickovic scored 17 points apiece for Serbia, while Dusko Savanovic added 15. The Serbians were 15 of 30 from 3-point range, exploiting the zone seemingly every time Spain used it.

"We were not able to stop them on the long shots," Spain guard Juan Carlos Navarro said. "That's why we lost and I believe that's why they deserved to win."

Navarro scored 27 points and Garbajosa, the former Toronto Raptors forward who recovered from a severe leg injury, added 18.

But the Spaniards, considered the co-favorites along with the United States coming into the tournament, lost for the third time in Turkey. They were without their best player, Lakers All-Star Pau Gasol, then lost point guard Jose Calderon of the Raptors shortly before the tournament.

The champions in Japan four years ago now will be forced to qualify for the 2012 Olympics at next year's European championship.

Teodosic, one of the two Serbia players suspended for a brawl in an exhibition game against Greece, finished with 12 points. Center Nenad Krstic of the Oklahoma City Thunder, the other suspended Serb, finished with 13 points and nine rebounds.

AP

Serbia's Milos Teodosic, left, shoots and makes a three-point shot as Spain's Jorge Garbajosa defends in the last seconds of their quarterfinal round at the World Basketball Championship, Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2010, in Istanbul, Turkey.

Turkey 95, Slovenia 68

At Istanbul, Ersan Ilyasova scored 19 points to help host Turkey reach the semifinals of the basketball world championship for the first time with a 95-68 win over Slovenia.

The undefeated Turks will face Serbia on Saturday after burying Slovenia by hitting 10 of 17 three-pointers, while beating their rival to nearly every loose ball.

"The guys, they flew," Turkey's coach Bogdan Tanjevic said. "They played the best of these seven games."

The teams traded leads five times until Kerem Tunceri's three-pointer with 6:35 left in the first quarter put Turkey 12-11 up.

That was the second of four threes Turkey hit in the span of three minutes, each one drawing huge roars from a highly partisan capacity crowd of about 15,500, packed with red and white.

Turkey finished the quarter on a 15-3 run to go 27-14 up. It kept the pressure on to start the second, hitting four threes in four minutes to open up a 41-25 lead with 5:25 to go.

Turkey, the tournament's best three-point shooting team, made eight of 11 three-pointers in the first half. It led 50-31 at half.

"They spread the floor really well," said Slovenia's Bostjan Nachbar, who scored 16 points. "We didn't adjust well to that and we were not aggressive enough today to make them take tough shots, to use fouls and all that, so we pretty much gave them open shots and they took advantage of that."

The Turks pushed the lead to 24 early in the second half, playing with an intensity that had guard Omer Onan clenching his fists and screaming after a 24-second violation was called on Turkey. Slovenia pulled to within 60-41 with 4:55 left in the third quarter, but got no closer.

Down 64-41, Slovenia called a timeout with 3:27 to go in the third quarter. Gasper Vidmar, head down, walked toward his bench, yanked out the bottom of his green jersey and threw it down violently.

"We tried to get back in the game but tonight there was no chance," Slovenian coach Mehmed Becirovic said.

Sani Becirovic had 16 points for Slovenia, and five Turks finished in double digits.

Serbia earlier upset defending champion Spain 92-89 to book its semifinal place.

September roll-off set for Sunday and Monday

The Saipan Bowling Association's September King and Queen of the Lanes will be held this Sunday and Monday, Sept. 12 and 13, at the Saipan Bowling Center in Oleai.

Competition on Sunday begins at 3pm, while the games the next day will have a 6pm start time. Additionally, the awarding of SBA's Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes will be held immediately after the tourney Monday night.

The tournament is exclusive to SBA members only and all participants must pay the required $15 annual membership fee. Bowlers for King and Queen of the Lanes have the option of bowling either on Sunday, Monday or on both days provided that the membership fee is paid.

Only the highest score will qualify for prizes. The number of bowlers will be limited to the first 60 entries for each day. Notably, women will only be awarded separate prize packages if their group contains at least 10 entries.

The Fiji Water Youth Prince and Princess of the Lanes, meanwhile, is open to youth bowlers ages 12-18 years old. Their tournament will be played only on Sunday and entrance fee is $10. Additionally, in order to qualify for the roll-off, youth bowlers must pay the additional $10 SBA annual youth membership fee.

For early registration and/or payment, contact Gigi or Ross Zapanta at 288-5627 or email zapanta@pti.com. ***(Walter Sutherland)***

Top Pool Bar to host weekly 8-ball tourney

Top Pool Bar will be organizing an 8-ball tournament every Wednesday starting next week on Sept. 15 at the Garapan sports bar and watering hole.

The competition, simply dubbed as the Open 8-Ball Tournament is open to all cue ball artists on the island.

Top Pool Bar manager Zheng Jian Qing said the 8-ball tournament will have a $15 entrance fee and will be a double-elimination format competition. Slots are open for up to 16 participants.

First place gets to take home $110, second place pockets $80, and third place receives $50.

He said the Wednesday 8-ball tournament will adopt the rules of Billiards Congress of America.

"Once again, we would like to invite the island's top pool shooters to test their skills every Wednesday for a game of 8-ball," said Zheng.

Practice for both the 8-ball tournament is free between the hours of 7pm to 8pm. For more information and reservation for the Open 8-Ball Tournament, call Zheng at 287-7676. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

RGA September Ace qualifier at Kingfisher

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its September Ace qualifying tournament this Sunday at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Check-in time is at 11am, while tee off is at 12pm.

Winner of the qualifier will have the chance to claim the September Ace title and gain a slot for the RGA Club Championships in December. The winner of the weekend tournament will own the score to beat for the next event and if his score is undefeated, he gets to keep the monthly plum.

Winner of the September Ace will also join club championship qualifiers Yi Piao (January Aces), Joe Saures (February) Nick Leon Guerrero (March), Carl Hocog (April), Xian Lai Cue (May), Jesse Seman (June), Tars Olopai (July), and Jess Wabol (August).

Wabol joined the elite list after his net score of 66 in the August qualifier went unbeaten in the second tournament last month at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Sixteen other RGA members tried to surpass Wabol's score, but failed. They were Asterio Tawanpiy (73); Tony Satur (73); Joe Wabol (74); Jess Seman (74); Manny Mangarero (74); Ray Tigilau (75); Ed Tenorio (77); Nick Leon Guerrero (78); Diwain Stephens (81); Jordan Kosam (81); Tony Rogolifoi (83); Tom Tebuteb (85); Emery Kaipat (91); and Carl Hocog (91).

Meanwhile, RGA is reminding monthly winners that they must compete in at least 10 qualifying tournaments to formally gain entry to the club championship.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact Kosam at 483-4506, Stephens at 288-0005, or Saures 483-5506. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

HOEGAARDEN

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a triple under time pressure and missed. Pedro Lizama then grabbed the rebound and after seeing daylight with only Kirk Schuler of IT&E guarding him at the baseline, the former drove to the basket, but overshot his mark.

When Lizama pulled up for a quick shot, only 19.8 seconds were left in the game and Sixsevenoh could have worked the clock and take the final shot.

After Lizama's miss, Melvin Capalad collared the rebound, was fouled, and made two pressure-packed charities, increasing IT&E's lead to 65-62.

Becks sued for time, but again faltered in its offensive set when Diaz muffed a running jumper.

Kirk Schuler then took care of the rebound, was fouled, and missed both shots. However, IT&E got the ball back, as Capalad, having no clear possession in the rebound play, wisely tapped the ball out to Esdrelon.

Sixsevenoh was forced to foul Esdrelon, as the clock was ticking. Esdrelon went only 1-for-2, giving IT&E a 66-62 advantage with only 10 seconds left in the game.

Sixevenoh then wasted another chance to cut IT&E's lead when Ed Diaz's inbound pass to Kelvin Fitial was stolen by Schuler. After the steal, Schuler opted to run the clock, which momentarily stopped ticking, forcing IT&E players to shout at the scorer's table and giving Sixsevenoh an opportunity to grab the ball back and pull up for the final shot in the game.

Tony Diaz made his last desperation shot—a triple—but missed for the third time and that had been the story after the opening quarter. Diaz was smoking hot in the first quarter, scoring 13 of his 21 points in the first period, which ended with Becks ahead, 21-16. He then had only a triple in the second, did not start in the third period where he made only two field goals, and remained cold in the fourth.

Also having an off night for Becks was Ed Diaz, who had only three points in the game. His triple put Becks back in the match, 60-61, after IT&E led by as much as five in the latter part of the fourth quarter.

Guiab top-scored for IT&E with 14 points, making 12 of them in the second half. He spent the halftime break shooting short jumpers and the drill helped him in the third period; where he scored IT&E's first six points to keep the team afloat. Guiab also tallied six consecutive markers midway in the final canto with his last putting IT&E in the lead for the first time.

IT&E won despite having only seven players for the game.

Hoegaarden IT&E 66 – Guaib 14, Capalad 10, Talania 9, Esdrelon 9, Schuler 5, Fernandez 2.

Becks Sixsevenoh 62 – T. Diaz 21, Camacho 16, Fitial 13, Lizama 7, E. Diaz 3, Gapor 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-21, 34-27, 41-45, 66-62.

ISLAND

From Page 36

base for the tag and that was the end of the game.

"It was one of the nicest games I have ever seen," said Castro.

Roberto went on to bat 4-for-4 with two homeruns and six RBIs, while Swayze Guerrero was responsible for all three outs in the last inning. Both players were elected co-MVPs by their teammates.

Pac-Chain settled for runner-up honors and Atmarao of Glenndale, Arizona placed third.

Notably, last year's defending champions, Team Taga from San Diego, California came in fourth this year and Brothers in Arms out of Fort Polk, Louisiana, for whom the Saipan community raised funds, finished in seventh place out of a very deep 32-team pool.

Along with Castro, Roberto, and Mike and Swayze Guerrero, CNMI Island Boyz is made up of Swayze's brother Joshua, who plays shortstop and right field; first baseman Eugene Arriola; catcher Tyrone Mafnas; and outfielders Bradley Camacho, David Cepeda Jr., and Jared Roberto—all of who hail from Saipan.

Other players on the team include Seattle's Ryan Brooke and Jon Stadler with Chad and Josh Hicks from Hawaii.

Notably, Mafnas is a serviceman in the U.S. Army stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, while Stadler is a school principal in Seattle who has been with the team since 1999. "It looks like he really enjoys the barbecue," someone on the team quipped.

According to Castro multiple fundraising booths were present selling food, shirts, stickers, bracelets, and various other mementos at the venue. There was also a big inflatable slide for the kids, and the field area was smoking due to a whole lot of barbecuing.

The CNMI Island Boyz lost their first game to Saipan team, Faha. Then Castro made an adjustment to the lineup and elected to play five infielders with three outfielders and that was when things started to come together for the group.

They went on to beat Brothers In Arms and then a team called Morets. Next the CNMI Island Boyz defeated a team known as Isao and then knocked off Federal Way, Washington's Chamlau. Then they eliminated Brothers in Arms in a second matchup between the two teams before clinching the championship berth by defeating Pac-Chain. From there the CNMI Island Boyz waited for Pac-Chain, Taga, and Atmarao to battle it out to see who would face them in the finals.

After conclusion of the tournament, Castro and his team expressed a great deal of thanks to event organizers, Wilton Ngotel and Leonora Camacho, for all of their hard work.

ARMATECH

From Page 36

one who helped Lizama in the fourth quarter, failing to save Mobil against a balanced Armatech team.

With their Top 2 finish in the regular season, Armatech and Mobil secured spots in the single-elimination playoff round.

Armatech is seeded first in the playoffs and will meet the fourth-ranked Micronesian Brokers, Inc.-Right Guard in the second semis game this Sunday at 3pm. In the first semis match at 1:30pm, the No. 2 Mobil will take on the No. 3 pick Marianas Wireless.

Winners of the two games this weekend will advance to the championship match scheduled for Sept. 19. Losers will duel in the consolation game, also set for Sept. 19 at 11am before the one-game finals at 1:30pm. Awards ceremony will follow after the championship tiff with organizers recognizing the top individual and team performers in the inaugural league.

Armatech 92 – Mendiola 27, Esdrelon 15, Talania 14, Capalad 11, Manibusan 8, Guiab 6, Gabaldon 5, Berline 4.

Mobil 88 – Lizama 31, Estolas 25, Rabauliman 19, Factor 7, Ruluked 4, Tumaquip 2.

Scoring by quarters: 19-26, 38-39, 57-58, 92-88.

BACK

From Page 36

grades, catch a tipped ball in the end zone for a Gator touchdown and then immediately fell back to sleep thinking all was right with the world.

Then when I awoke at a civilized time, I checked the Internet to see how the Gators did and saw they had been lousy even if they won. Lots of things happen while you are sleeping and some of them are really bad. Remember that the next time you go to sleep.

One of the best games in terms of excitement was on Channel 7 as LSU edged North Carolina. I say exciting because 1) the game wasn't decided until the last play and 2) I had to rush to mute the volume every time a commercial came on in order to save my ear drums from splitting. Say huh?

Boise State, where many of our athletes are attending including Micronesia's fastest female Yvonne Bennett and pentathlon queen Jacque Wonnenberg, threw the BCS for a loop with an impressive road win over Virginia Tech. TCU was also impressive while Oklahoma puttered which means it should be another topsy turvy NCAA season. If more than two BCS teams go undefeated and so does Boise State, then the clamor for a playoff system and true champion will gain momentum.

This weekend the NFL returns and then it's truly back to normal. What a long off-season it has been. I think the last Super Bowl was played a few years ago, if I'm not mistaken. Here are my Super Bowl picks: Colts, Packers, Jets, Saints, Ravens, and Cowboys. Take two of those, just like you would with aspirin.

There was some talk about reviving the Saipan Football League, not to be confused with soccer which plays under the auspices of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association. But alas, like the government budget, there is a problem with the numbers. Saipan has seen so much out-migration, there are simply not enough interested guys to get it going again. When the state of Washington fields 16 teams in the CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament, you don't need census data to know which way the winds blow.

I still remember 1994 when the Saipan Youth Football League burst onto the scene with four fully padded teams: Northern, Southern, Western, and Central. Oh, those were the good ole days. Now they are just days that blow by like months and years.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	87	53	.621	—
Tampa Bay	84	55	.604	2 1/2
Boston	78	62	.557	9
Toronto	72	67	.518	14 1/2
Baltimore	53	87	.379	34

Central Division

Minnesota	83	57	.593	—
Chicago	77	62	.554	5 1/2
Detroit	70	70	.500	13
Kansas City	57	82	.410	25 1/2
Cleveland	57	83	.407	26

West Division

Texas	76	63	.547	—
Oakland	69	70	.496	7
Los Angeles	67	73	.479	9 1/2
Seattle	55	85	.393	21 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	81	60	.574	—
Atlanta	80	60	.571	1/2
Florida	70	69	.504	10
New York	69	71	.493	11 1/2
Washington	60	80	.429	20 1/2

Central Division

Cincinnati	79	60	.568	—
St. Louis	72	65	.526	6
Houston	66	73	.475	13
Milwaukee	65	74	.468	14
Chicago	60	80	.429	19 1/2
Pittsburgh	47	92	.338	32

West Division

San Diego	79	59	.572	—
San Francisco	78	62	.557	2
Colorado	75	64	.540	4 1/2
Los Angeles	69	71	.493	11
Arizona	57	83	.407	23

Yesterday's Games

N.Y. Mets 3, Washington 2
Atlanta 9, Pittsburgh 3
Philadelphia 10, Florida 6
Houston 4, Chicago Cubs 0
Milwaukee 8, St. Louis 1
Colorado 9, Cincinnati 2
Arizona 3, San Francisco 1
San Diego 4, L.A. Dodgers 0
N.Y. Yankees 3, Baltimore 2
Detroit 5, Chicago White Sox 1
L.A. Angels 4, Cleveland 3, 16 innings
Texas 8, Toronto 1
Boston 11, Tampa Bay 5
Minnesota 4, Kansas City 3
Oakland 4, Seattle 3

LOCAL SCORES

EMON LODGE FINAL STANDINGS

Armatech	8	1
Mobil	8	1
Marianas Wireless	7	2
MBI-Right Guard	6	3
Oche's	5	4
Kagman Sparks	5	4
Wings Travel	3	6
Joeten Superstores	2	8
Marianas Resort	1	9
Tropical Laundry	0	10

All set for Banzai half marathon, fun run

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lewie Tenorio, right, and Mieko Carey were first runners to arrive at the finish line of the Fun Run division in last year's Banzai races.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

It is all systems go for tomorrow's 5th Annual POWERade Banzai Memorial Half Marathon and Fun Run.

"We've got tons of sponsors and interests from the community continue to pour in, as we have a bunch of people coming out and offering their help as volunteers. We also have great prizes for the Top 3 finishers and there will also be a post-race raffle for all participants," said race organizer Brad Ruszala, who expects more than 60 runners in this weekend's event.

"For the first time since we started the race in 2006, I've received a number of phone calls and emails from people seeking the registration forms in advance of the events. That sounds like there is increased interest in this year's event," he added.

This Saturday's races will begin with the half marathon first at 6am. Registration starts at 5:15 for both the half marathon and fun run races.

From the starting line at Banzai Cliff, participants in the 13.1-mile race will head to the Last Command Post, then turn right along Chalan Pale Arnold until they reach the coral road leading up to FEBC. They will continue running until reaching the T-intersection at the top of the road and turn right.

Runners will continue negotiating the coral road behind the Marianas Country Club until reaching the 1-million gallon water tank, where they will turn left along the paved road. Then once runners reach the intersection that leads to the old radar station, they will continue straight to another coral road leading them down past the firing range and Kalabera Cave.

From Kalavera Cave, runners will head to the final paved section leading to the Bird Island Lookout. Next they will turn right at the intersection leading to Grotto and turn left en route to Santa Claus Lane. That trail will intersect with the Fun Run course and runners will head to Cowtown. From that point, both groups of runners will follow the course below the Cowtown Raceway for the final mile and a half to the finish line at Banzai Cliff.

Race volunteers will be out on the course to guide runners and there will be three water stops along the half-marathon course. The first one is on top of the hill just before the final stretch to the Radar Station. The second aid station is at the Bird Island Lookout, while the third is where the two trails converge. There will also be a course briefing before runners head out to the road.

For the 4.2-mile Fun Run course, which will start at 7am, runners will also start at Banzai Cliff, but will turn left after reaching the Last Japanese Command Post. They will turn left again at the fork in the road that leads to the Cowtown Raceway and then back to Banzai Cliff.

This year's Banzai races are supported by POWERade, Coca-Cola, Subway, Foremost, Scoops, Glimpses, IT&E, IP&E, Pacific Islands Club, Marianas Visitors Authority, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Digital Motion, Brabu Pharmacy, Michelob Ultra, Top Notch, The Athlete's Foot, All-Star Sports, XTERRA Saipan, and Taga Inc.

To register or for more information, contact Ruszala at 287-2723 or via email at bradinthesand96950@yahoo.com.

Strikers beat upset-conscious Lady Gagas

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Ladies League pacesetter D'Pirates Bar & Grill's Strikers avoided the upset axe by nipping Gaia's Lady Gagas, 8-7, at home Monday night.

The close victory improved Strikers' win-loss record to 64-26, while the loss dropped Lady Gagas to 48-42, still good enough for fourth-best in the Saipan Electronic Dart Association division.

Other matches in the Ladies League Monday saw USS Peleliu Club's Kmal Sechelim (36-54) score an impressive upset at home against third place Mama's Snipers of D'Pirates Bar & Grill (53-37), Buddies Bar & Grill's Pink Panthers (37-53) defeat Sande's Megatouch (27-52), and second-running Jonny's Yakau (60-30) take out Buddies Bar & Grill's Tipiyeew (35-55).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The first place SEDA Ladies League Strikers, from D'Pirates Bar & Grill, pose for a team photo after their win, last Monday, at their home bar over Gaia's Lady Gagas.

Strikers 8, Lady Gagas 7

Fina Guevarra, Jen Cabrera, and Emily Vargas of the home team Strikers won three of the four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out games to give their team an early lead. Both teams then won a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a Partners 501 Double In/Double Out match. Then Melissa T. Jack, Yvonne Pangelinan, and Yvonne Sablan of Lady Gagas ignited a rally attempt, taking three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches and the game remained tied after both teams won a game of Partners Baseball. However, Guevarra, Vargas, Bhek Dizon, and Rowena Trombetta of the Strikers held it together for the win.

Kmal Sechelim 8, Mama's Snipers 7

Polly Omechelang, Rose Phillips, Erina Olkenil, and Beverly Ngirmekur of home team Kmal Sechelim got off to a great start sweeping all four Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches. Then after both teams took a game of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and a Partners 501 Double In/Double Out match, Aida Laniyo, Cecilia Blas, and Matrina Lisua of Mama's Snipers won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games. Both teams won a pair of Partners Baseball game, but Kmal Sechelim's win gave their team the automatic victory, while Mama's Snipers won the final Team1001 Double In/Double Out match.

Pink Panthers 10, Megatouch 5

Both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In /Double Out matches before the visiting Pink Panthers swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Then Lori Terre, Mara Lambon, and Luz Antonio of the Pink Panthers won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket matches; Lambons' win gave her team the automatic win. Megatouch won both Partners Baseball games, but the Pink Panthers took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

Yakau 11, Tipyeew 4

In similar fashion, both teams won a pair of Singles 301 Double In/Double Out matches before visiting team Yakau swept both games of Partners Wild and Crazy Cricket and both Partners 501 Double In/Double Out matches. Then Yakau's Lois Blaluk, Frances Magofna, and Ressie Takeda won three of the four Singles Regular Cricket games; Magofna's win gave her team the automatic victory. Both teams won a game of Partners Baseball and Yakau took the final Team 1001 Double In/Double Out match.

MRA resurrects board of directors

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Marianas Racing Association resurrected a new five-member board of directors during a meeting last Sept. 5.

The newly formed MRA board consists of elected president James Eller, vice president Daniel Westphal, secretary and treasurer Jay Doronila, and directors Dave Celis and Adam Hardwicke.

"Basically, we want the people to know that this organization has been formed and racing will start taking place at the track in Cowtown," said Hardwicke.

WALTER SUTHERLAND

From left, Marianas Racing Association president James Eller, vice president Dan Westphal, secretary and treasurer Jay Doronila, and board members Adam Hardwicke and Dave Celis make up the newly resurrected MRA board of directors.

Other issues addressed at the meeting included the MRA satisfying the Department of Labor's third party liability insurance requirement and the MRA's filing for a new non-profit organization business license.

As of now, local motocross enthusiasts have been performing some initial ground maintenance procedures at the racetrack in Cowtown such as picking up trash and bush-cutting foliage along the track. The area is somewhat overgrown, but overall the track is still passable.

Staging any big motocross events anytime soon is still far from a reality, but the groundwork is now set to regain permission for the public to use the land for motor sports purposes. Still, the MRA plans on holding some fundraising efforts in the future.

For more information, contact MRA president James Eller at 483-6002 or email eller900@yahoo.com.

PCA/Docomo softball tourney starts this Sunday

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The 4th Annual Palau Community Association/ Docomo Pacific Softball Tournament is scheduled to kick off this Sunday, Sept. 12, at Dandan Elementary School Ballfield.

The competition will be held on the following three weekends—Sept. 18, 19, and 26 before concluding on Oct. 2.

A fine-carved wooden Palauan trophy and $300 will go to the winning team. So far, about 10 teams are expected to compete and the rosters are still being finalized. The format for the tournament will be single elimination.

Every year this tournament is held as a fundraiser to help the PCA build its Palauan Abai community meeting hall in Navy Hill.

Major sponsor Docomo Pacific already provided funds for the event along with a banner that will be used for advertising purposes.

At the conclusion of the tournament, the trophy and cash prize will be presented to the winners on Oct. 2 during the 16th Palau Independence Day celebration at the Chamolinian Utt in Garapan.

The PCA would like to thank Docomo Pacific and its marketing representative James Lee for their continued support. For more information, contact PCA president Rufino Aguon at 483-6232 or Marilyn Marron at 322-2706.

Federer tops Soderling, reaches semifinals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

All set for Banzai half marathon, fun run

PAGE 35

Hoegaarden IT&E lives for another day

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hoegaarden IT&E's season is not over yet, as it eked out a 66-62 playoff win over Becks Sixsevenoh in the playoff round of the 2010 Budweiser Men's Basketball League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IT&E, despite its lack of manpower, patiently climbed its way back into the do-or-die game and was rewarded in the end, gaining a chance to challenge Bacardi Mojito Hi-5 for the second and last finals seat. Hi-5 and IT&E's duel for the second finals berth is set for tonight with the winner facing the unbeaten CNMI Nationals.

Sixsevenoh is done for the season and it was a sorry lost for the team that dominated majority of the game, only to see its chances of making it to the finals disappeared in the closing seconds of the crucial playoff match.

IT&E stole the win in the last 45 seconds of the fourth quarter after falling behind by as much as 13 in the first half.

Sixsevenoh, which gave IT&E its first taste of the lead at 54-56 after a Junar Guiab layup midway in the fourth quarter, had the driver's seat for the last time, 62-61 off Kelvin Fitial's undergoal stab.

After Fitial's bucket, IT&E went for a quick inbound with Elmer Esdrelon already sprinting to their frontcourt, going for a layup against the outstretched arms of James Camacho, and making the tough shot for his team's 63-62 advantage, 45 ticks to go in the game.

Sixsevenoh, which lost the lead and eventually the game as it played too complacent in the second half, then failed to produce a basket on several occasions, allowing IT&E to advance to the next round.

First, Tony Diaz was forced to take

See HOEGAARDEN on Page 34

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hoegaarden IT&E's Elmer Esdrelon scoots in for a layup against Becks Sixsevenoh's James Camacho, making the crucial basket that helped IT&E pull off a 66-62 playoff win during their game in the Budweiser caging Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Island Boyz tops Labor Day softball

By WALTER SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CNMI Island Boyz defeated Pac-Chain, 9-8, in seven innings to crown itself champion of the 6th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament held this past Labor Day weekend at the Russell Road Sports Complex in Kent, Washington.

According to Joey Castro, who has been managing the team from Seattle, Washington for the last 16 years, CNMI Island Boyz was down by two runs in the bottom of the sixth against Boise, Idaho-based Pac-Chain, 6-8.

Mike Roberto, however, came up to bat with a couple of runners on base and hit a more than 300-foot homerun to give CNMI Island Boyz a 9-8 lead.

Later in the top of the seventh, Castro said a last chance runner was on first for Pac-Chain with zero outs. The batter hit it to Swayze Guerrero and he turned sweet a double play.

Then the next batter came up and drilled a liner to left center and Josh Hicks shot a laser relay to Guerrero. The Pac-Chain runner was trying to stretch out a triple but Guerrero, a college pitcher, caught the relay and launched a rocket over to his dad, Mike "The Rock" Guerrero, at third

See ISLAND on Page 34

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI Island Boyz out of Seattle, Washington won this year's 6th Annual CNMI Labor Day Softball Tournament that took place in Kent, Washington last Labor Day weekend.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of Armatech pose for a group photo before their game in the Emon Lodge caging last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech takes pennant in Emon Lodge caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Armatech secured the pennant in the Emon Lodge 179 Freemasonry Inter-Color Basketball League, following a 92-88 win over Mobil at the conclusion of the regular season last Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Armatech finished the round-robin regular season of the 10-team league with an 8-1 record. The pennant champion in the inaugural Emon Lodge caging absorbed its lone loss in the league at the hands of Marianas Wireless, 71-72.

Mobil also earned an 8-1 slate, but lost the tiebreak for the pennant due to the winner-over-the-other rule.

Mobil had a chance to sweep the regular season and win the pennant when it led Armatech in the first three quarters, but the former collapsed in the final canto.

Brendon Talania led Armatech's comeback in the fourth quarter when he knocked in eight straight points in the final canto, including two triples. Elmer Esdrelon and Junar Guiab finished what Talania started, scoring Armatech's last five points from the stripe to complete the come-from-behind win. Esdrelon canned three free throws, while Guiab added two.

Peter Mendiola top-scored for Armatech with 27 points, keeping the team afloat in the first three periods. Esdrelon chipped in 15, while Talania and Mel Capalad contributed 14 and 11, respectively.

CNMI Nationals mainstay Jack Lizama paced Mobil with 31 points, while Jun Estolas logged 25 markers, but was held to only one field goal in the fourth period when Armatech made a rally. Marvin Rabauliman recorded 19 markers and was the only

See ARMATECH on Page 34

Back to normal

We wait all year for summer to come and then it passes before our eyes like real ghosts and is gone. September means it's time to start thinking about Thanksgiving and Christmas and then of course, New Year. That's when we start longing for summer vacation again.

As the saying goes, when one gets older, the days go by slower but the months and years go by faster. Or is it the other way around? I don't remember. Well, that's a sure sign of aging.

Back to school means back to football. We enjoyed a full plate on television last weekend. I got up at two in the morning to see the Gators play a horrible Miami of Ohio team, only to see the Gators look more like a first-year peewee team. I fell asleep at halftime. I opened my eyes later to see Chris Rainey, who I had seen run fantastically for Lakeland High School when he was in 10th, 11th, and 12th

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2